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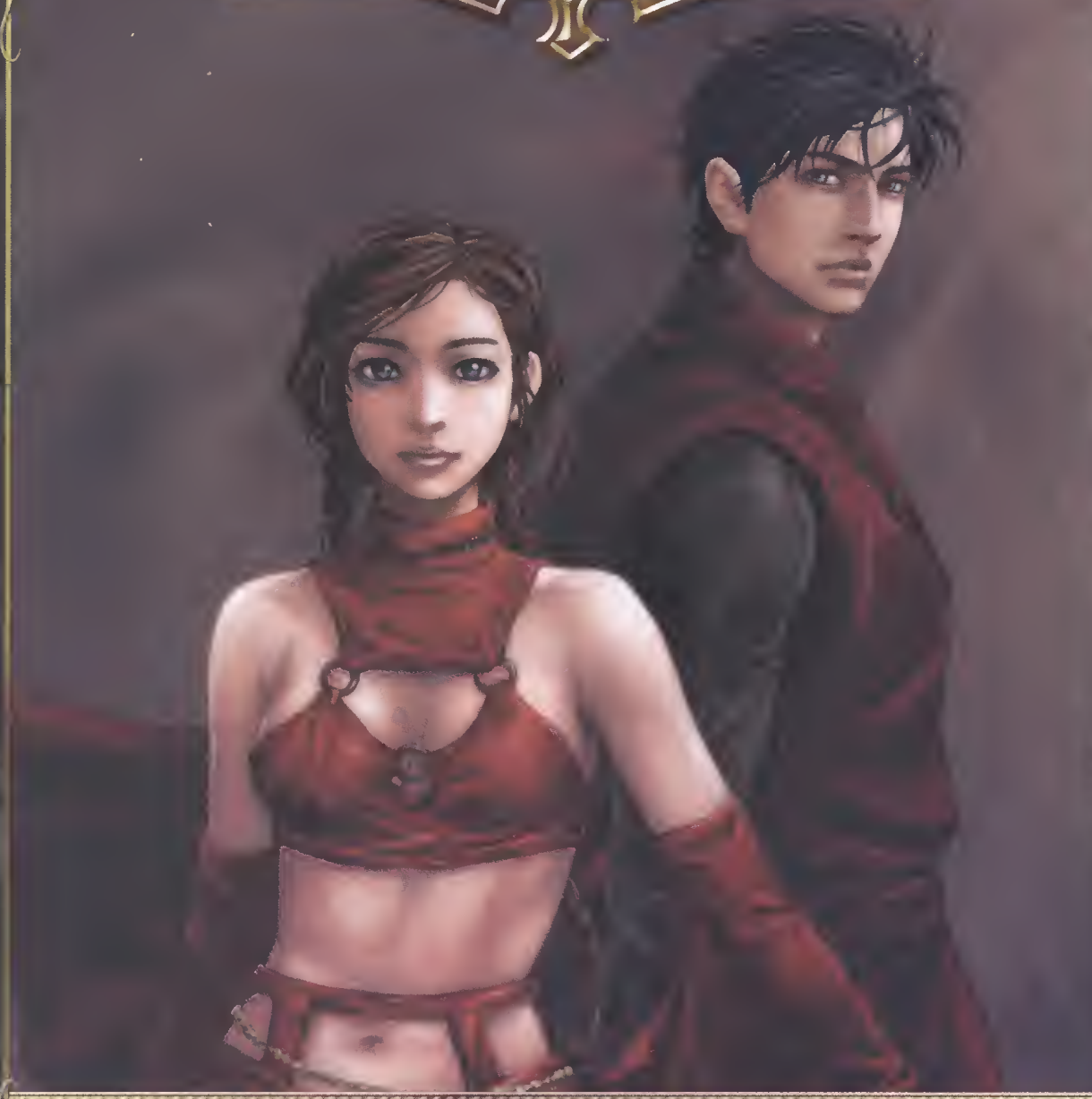
PLANET BLOOD™



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KIM TAE-HYUNG

Planet Blood
By Kim Jae Hwang

Volume 1

Created by
Kim Tae-Hyung

TOKYOPOP

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

Planet Blood Vol. 1
created by Kim Tae-Hyung

Translation - Woo Sok Park
English Adaptation - Mike W. Barr
Copy Editor - Brandon Montclare
Retouch and Lettering - Yoohae Yang
Production Artist - Jason Milligan
Cover Layout - Raymond Makowski

Editor - Luis Reyes
Digital Imaging Manager - Chris Buford
Pre-Press Manager - Antonio DePietro
Production Managers - Jennifer Miller and Mutsumi Miyazaki
Art Director - Matt Alford
Managing Editor - Jill Freshney
VP of Production - Ron Klamert
Editor-in-Chief - Mike Kiley
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Publisher and C.E.O - Stuart Levy

A TOKYOPOP Manga

TOKYOPOP Inc
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

E-mail: info@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com

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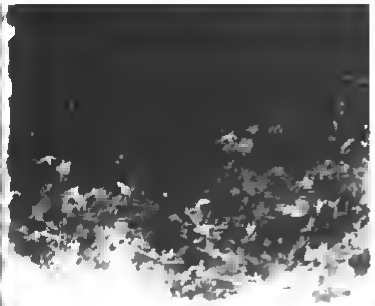
WE WANT "PEACE"
Year U.C. (Universal Century) 0031
10:18
The 5th World War cost the earth 46% of its population. History judged this to be an acceptable loss.

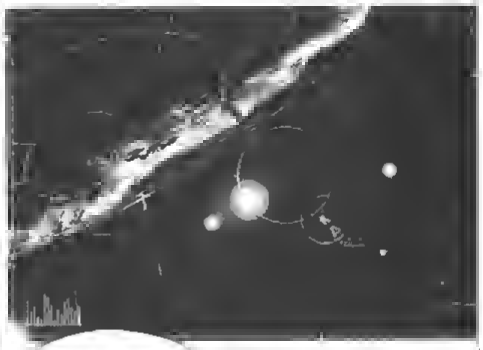
After the war, humankind migrated from Earth and relocated to colonies established on the moon and Mars. The Earth Purification Project had begun.

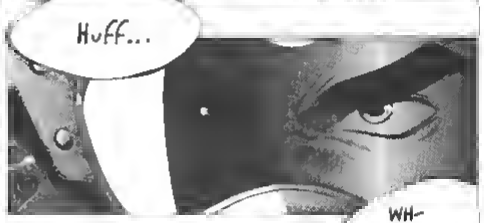
The grand plan was to return 35% of the space colonists to an Earth from which 60 years of nuclear toxins had been ecologically scrubbed clean.

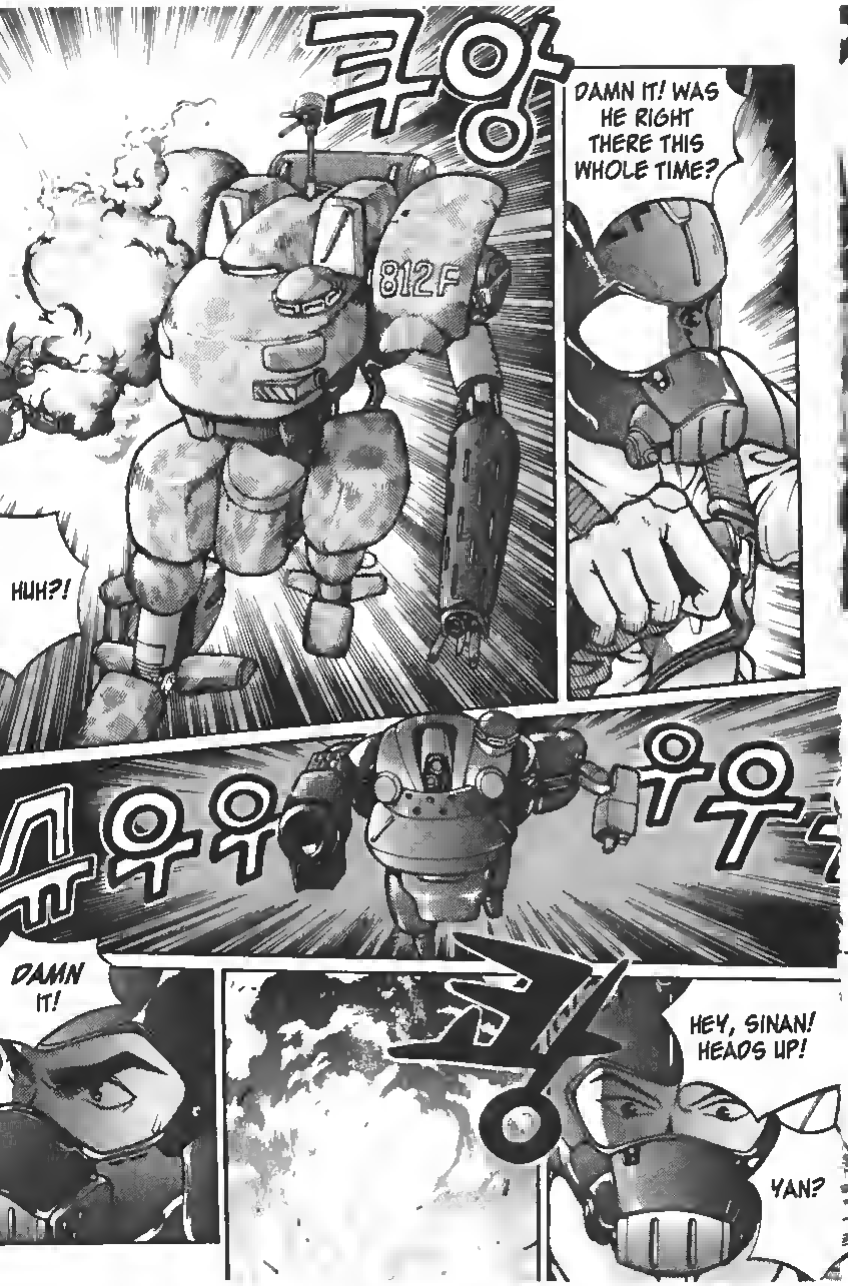
But history repeated itself -- a war between the colonists of Mars and the moon erupted over the control of re-constructing and populating favorable locations on the new earth.

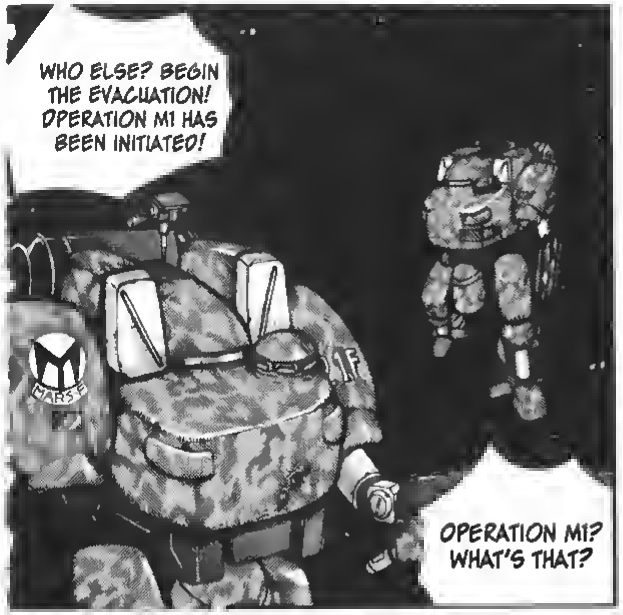
And with the Martian Declaration of Independence, the 6th World War began. Some historians designated it the 1st Universal War.








쿠앙
812F
DAMN IT! WAS HE RIGHT THERE THIS WHOLE TIME?
HUH?!
우우우
DAMN IT!
HEY, SINAN! HEADS UP!
YAN?


WHO ELSE? BEGIN THE EVACUATION! OPERATION M1 HAS BEEN INITIATED!
MARS
OPERATION M1? WHAT'S THAT?

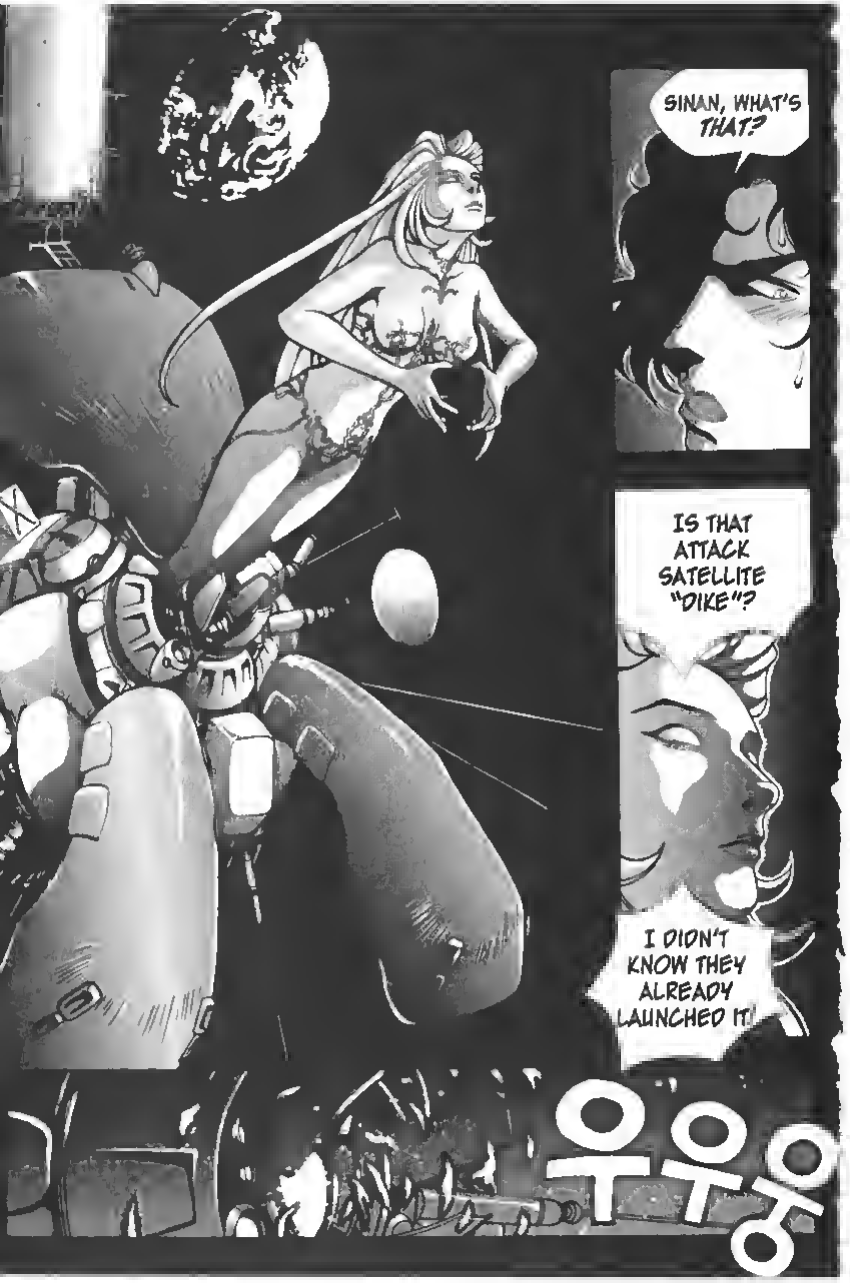
I WAS ON THE EDGE OF BROADCAST RANGE TOO, SO I'M NOT SURE. BUT THE ORDER CAME TO EVACUATE THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON.
YOU'RE KIDDING?

THE DARK SIDE? I DON'T EVEN HAVE ENOUGH FUEL TO GET TO THE MOON!
DO YOU READ ANY MARS FORCES IN THE AREA? I THOUGHT THE OPERATION WAS SUPPOSED TO OCCUR IN THIS SECTOR.

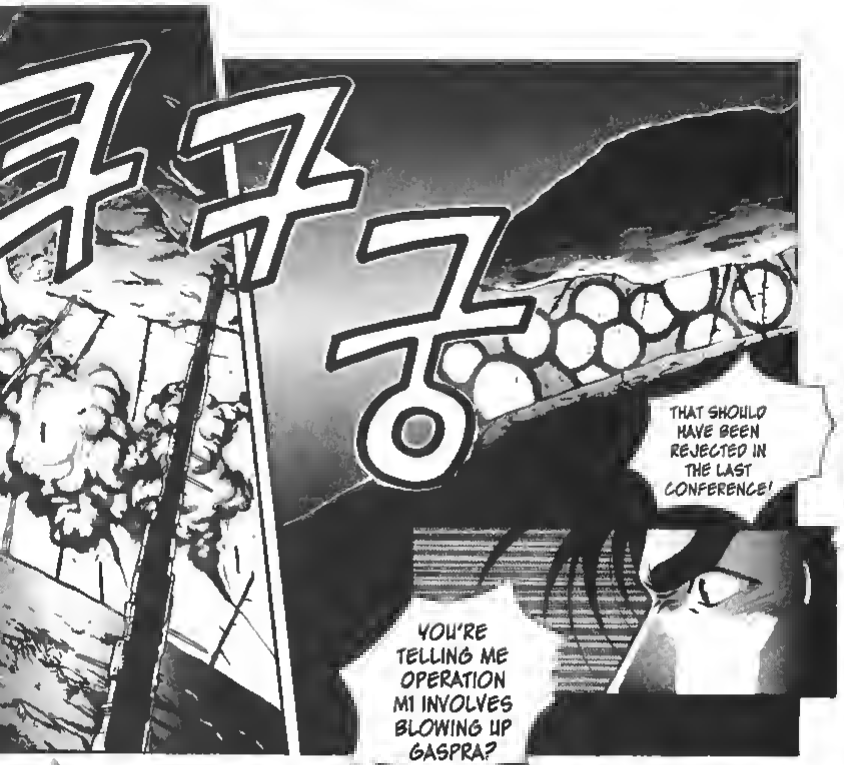
AND HOW LONG HAS OPERATION M1 BEEN GOING ON?
I LOST SOME OF THE DETAILS, BUT I THINK SINCE SEVENTEEN HUNDRED SHARP.

SEVENTEEN HUNDRED? IT'S ALREADY SEVENTEEN TWENTY!

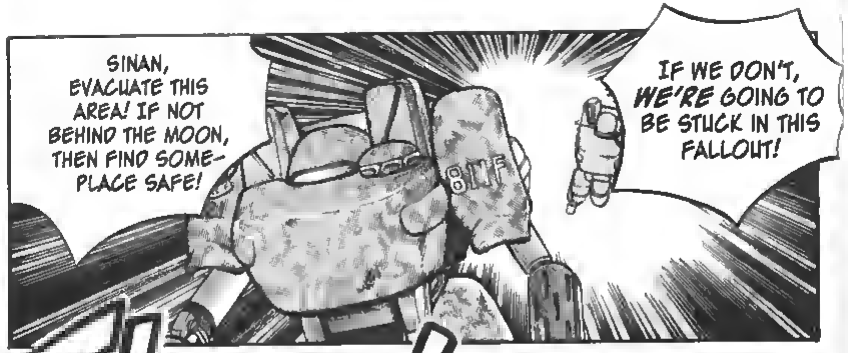
WHY DID THEY ORDER THE EVACUATION? ARE THEY GOING TO TEST A NEW WEAPON OR SOMETHING?


SINAN, WHAT'S THAT?
IS THAT ATTACK SATELLITE "DIKE"?
I DIDN'T KNOW THEY ALREADY LAUNCHED IT!

WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
TRYING TO BLOW UP GASPRA?
THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! IF THEY BLOW UP GASPRA, IT'LL TAKE THE MOON WITH IT!
AND GOD KNOWS WHAT THAT'LL DO TO THE EARTH!


THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN REJECTED IN THE LAST CONFERENCE!
YOU'RE TELLING ME OPERATION M1 INVOLVES BLOWING UP GASPRA?

WE HAVE TO STOP IT!
STOP IT?! HOW ARE WE GOING TO STOP IT?!
IF WE DON'T, THE FALLOUT WILL POISON THE EARTH, TOO!


SINAN, EVACUATE THIS AREA! IF NOT BEHIND THE MOON, THEN FIND SOME-PLACE SAFE!
IF WE DON'T, *WE'RE* GOING TO BE STUCK IN THIS FALLOUT!

THERE'S AN ABANDONED COLONY DOWN THERE! FOLLOW ME IN, SINAN!

NOW?! THEY'D RISK DESTROYING THE EARTH NOW?!
THEY RESTORE THE EARTH JUST TO TEAR IT UP IN ANOTHER WAR?!

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쾅
쾅

후드
크아아

on October 10,
U.C. 0079,
the First
Universal War
ended...
And an entirely
different war in an
entirely different
world began

812F
....
UNHHHH...
끼익

AM I ALIVE?
IS THIS EARTH?
WELL, THERE'S GRAVITY...
AND AN ATMOSPHERE. IT'S LIKE EARTH...
HEY, YAN! WHERE ARE YOU?
AH!

BUT IT DEFINITELY DOESN'T *LOOK* LIKE EARTH!

WAS I HURLED DEEP INTO SPACE BY A MAGNETIC WIND?
IS THIS AN ENTIRELY NEW CIVILIZATION?
MAYBE IT'S A NEW EARTH COLONY. BUT WHICH SIDE OF THE WAR ARE THEY ON?
DAMN IT! WHERE AM I?
LET'S SEE -- I HAVE ONE DAY'S RATIONS, A 12-ROUND PISTOL, AND ONE TRACER SHELL.
THAT WON'T LAST LONG. BUT THERE MUST BE A TOWN NEARBY...

AND SOME FORM OF INTELLIGENT LIFE.
GET HER!

AGH!
RAMON!
PRINCESS! GET AWAY! QUICKLY!
ARGH!
...!

UNHHH!
PRINCESS!
MAYI RAKISAO! YOU'RE CAUSING ME A LOT OF TROUBLE!
WHY MAKE ME WORK SO HARD FOR MY BOUNTY? EITHER WAY, YOU'LL WIND UP DEAD.

YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO ATTACK YOUR BETTERS!
...
WHAT THE HELL!
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO KILL YOU RIGHT AWAY, MAYI. I'LL LET YOU LIVE FOR A WHILE LONGER. HEH HEH...
HEE HEE HEE!

LET'S FIND OUT WHAT A PRINCESS SMELLS LIKE.
SUCH FEEBLE THREATS! GO TELL ZETSOS THAT GAIYA WILL NEVER FALL INTO HIS HANDS.
IT'S NOT ZETSOS' HANDS YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT.
I WON'T EVEN USE MY HANDS! HEE HEE HEE!
...!

WHO'S THERE?
...!
GET AWAY FROM HER!
WHAT KIND OF TUNIC IS HE WEARING?
DAMN IT, WHY AM I GETTING INVOLVED IN THIS? IT'S NOT MY FIGHT!
LEAVE NOW BEFORE WE BECOME OFFENDED BY YOUR INTRUSION!
타닷
I THINK YOU BARBARIANS SHOULD BACK OFF AND CLEAR OUT!
AIEEE!
I...I KNOW YOU. YOU ARE...

IT'S OKAY. I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU.
YOU'RE ONE OF THE NEOPTOLEMOS! THE GREAT WARRIORS OF LEGEND! THE CREATORS OF MODERN WARFARE!
I AM?
...
YOU LET HER GET AWAY, EH?
YES, SIR PANTERA. BUT THERE WAS A WIZARD...
HE WIELDED A GREAT MAGIC!

THE CLOUDS MOVE FAST. THERE IS THE SCENT OF BLOOD IN THE WIND.
WE LIVE IN A TIME OF TROUBLES, TROUBLES THAT CALL FOR A HERO.
BUT THERE ARE SO FEW HEROES ANYMORE.

HORAI · 1469·5
Payre
Krysie
Attack Path of the Allied Forces
Kingdom of Mureerek
Kingdom of Mureerek
Kingdom of Valgya fallen
Mezzokison
Bia
Forbidden City
Lake of Fog
Charan
Fortress of Muyt Rakiaad and Noodles
Kingdom of Romu
Kingdom of Prafria
Where Sinan first arrived
Poefo
Prafria
Sly Island
Kingdom of Galya fallen
N
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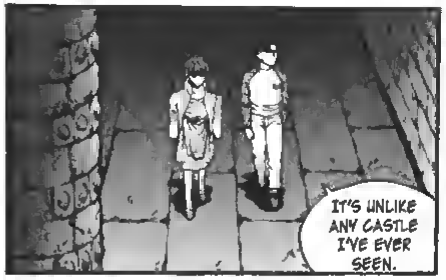
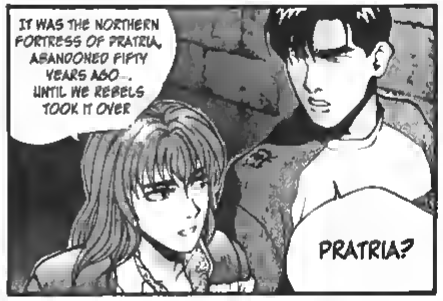
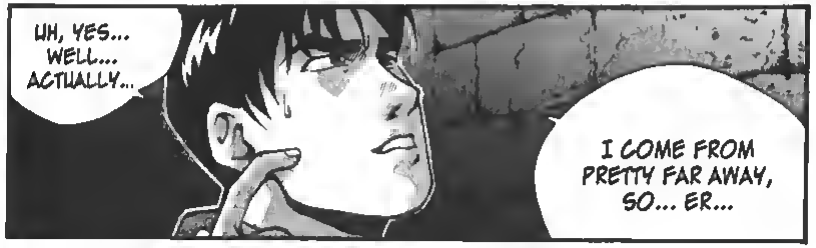
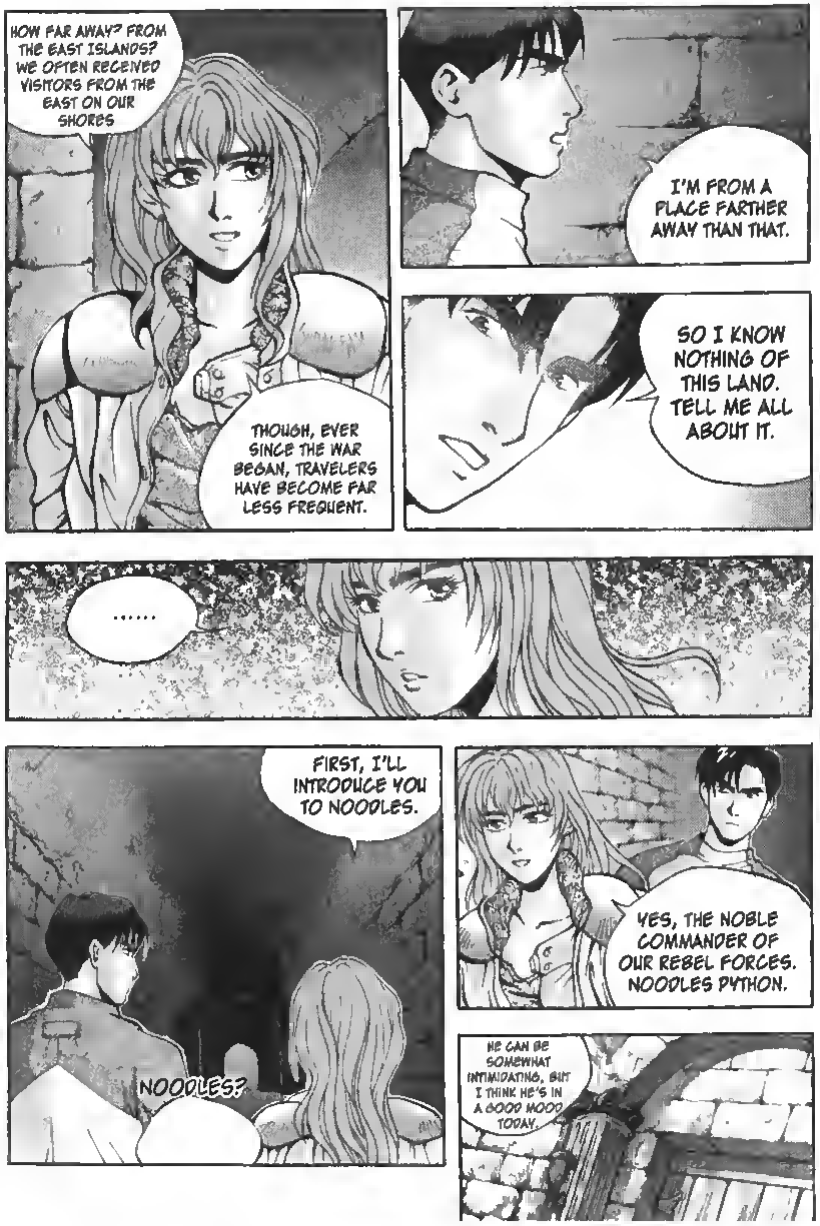
HERE WE ARE. OUR CASTLE.
WOW.
IT'S INCREDIBLE...


IT'S UNLIKE ANY CASTLE I'VE EVER SEEN.

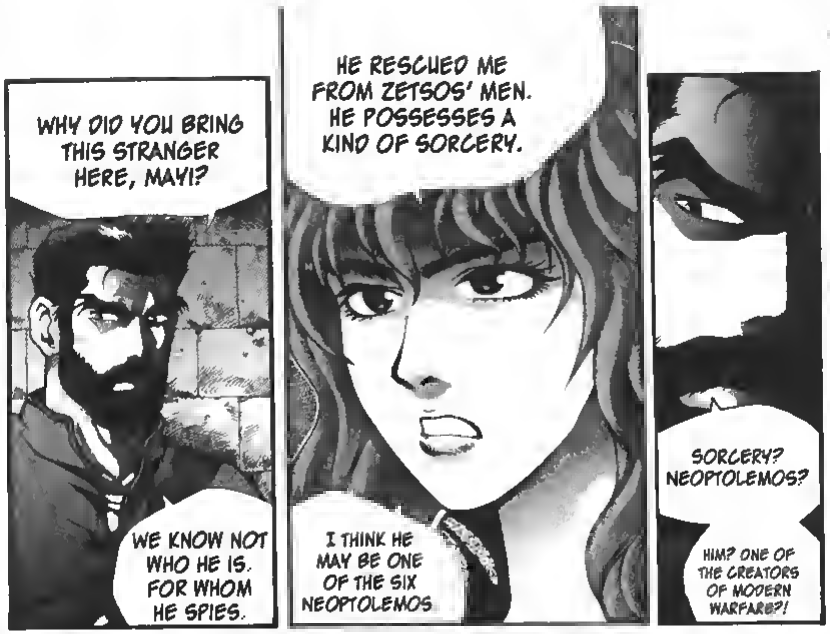

IT WAS THE NORTHERN FORTRESS OF PRATRIA, ABANDONED FIFTY YEARS AGO... UNTIL WE REBELS TOOK IT OVER
PRATRIA?

THE DOMAIN OF PRINCE NOODLES, THE RIGHTFUL HEIR. BUT FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, HIS KINGDOM WAS STOLEN AND THE PRINCE HIMSELF EXILED. AND IN THE TIME SINCE, HE HAS RAISED AN ARMY TO TAKE BACK THE THRONE.
YOU SEEM TO BE COMPLETELY IGNORANT OF HISTORY, STRANGE ONE.


UH, YES... WELL... ACTUALLY...
I COME FROM PRETTY FAR AWAY, SO... ER...

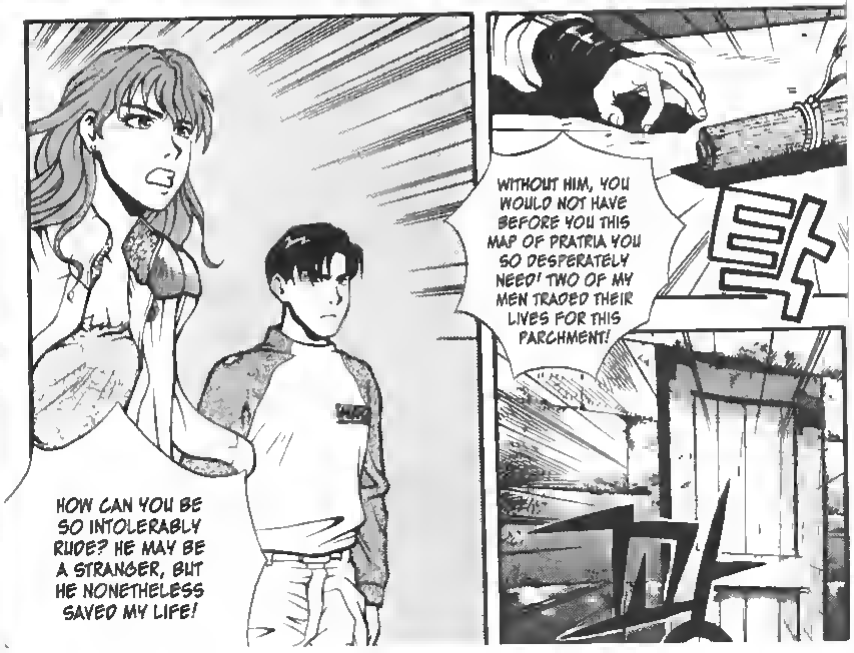

HOW FAR AWAY? FROM THE EAST ISLANDS? WE OFTEN RECEIVED VISITORS FROM THE EAST ON OUR SHORES
THOUGH, EVER SINCE THE WAR BEGAN, TRAVELERS HAVE BECOME FAR LESS FREQUENT.
I'M FROM A PLACE FARTHER AWAY THAN THAT.
SO I KNOW NOTHING OF THIS LAND. TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT.
.....
FIRST, I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO NOODLES.
NOODLES?
YES, THE NOBLE COMMANDER OF OUR REBEL FORCES. NOODLES PYTHON.
HE CAN BE SOMEWHAT INTIMIDATING, BUT I THINK HE'S IN A GOOD MOOD TODAY.

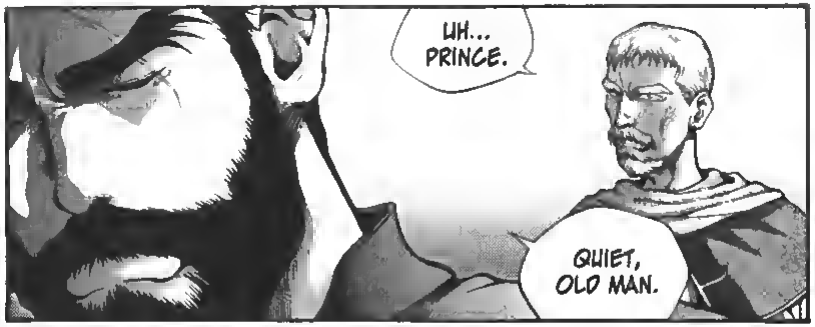
WHO IS THIS?
He's huge!
HE RESCUED ME FROM ASSASSINS. I BELIEVE WE OWE HIM AT LEAST AN OUNCE OF GRATITUDE.
Is he a giant?
HASC


WHY DID YOU BRING THIS STRANGER HERE, MAYI?
WE KNOW NOT WHO HE IS. FOR WHOM HE SPIES.
HE RESCUED ME FROM ZETSOS' MEN. HE POSSESSES A KIND OF SORCERY.
I THINK HE MAY BE ONE OF THE SIX NEOPTOLEMOS
SORCERY? NEOPTOLEMOS?
HIM? ONE OF THE CREATORS OF MODERN WARFARE?!

I THANK YOU FOR RESCUING THE PRINCESS. YOU MAY REST HERE FOR A DAY. WHEN THE NEW DAY BREAKS, WE'LL SEE YOU OFF TO WHATEVER COUNTRY YOU CALL HOME.

HMPH.
ONLY TWO PEOPLE ON THE WHOLE OF THIS CONTINENT CAN CAST SORCERY. AND NEITHER OF THEM STAND IN THIS ROOM.
AND THE NEOPTOLEMOS ARE NOT HUMAN.
AND WHAT IS THIS OF SORCERY?


HOW CAN YOU BE SO INTOLERABLY RUDE? HE MAY BE A STRANGER, BUT HE NONETHELESS SAVED MY LIFE!
WITHOUT HIM, YOU WOULD NOT HAVE BEFORE YOU THIS MAP OF PRATRIA YOU SO DESPERATELY NEED! TWO OF MY MEN TRADED THEIR LIVES FOR THIS PARCHMENT!


UH... PRINCE.
QUIET, OLD MAN.

FORGIVE MY RUDENESS, BUT I MUST BE CAUTIOUS.

BUT HE USED SORCERY... PRINCESS MAYI SAID THAT SHE SAW HIM.

SHE WAS MISTAKEN. THE ONLY MAGICIANS IN THIS LAND ARE MY FORMER TEACHER TELEMON AND HIS WIFE, PYTHIA.
THE FOREIGNER'S STRANGE CLOTHES ARE NOT THOSE OF A KNIGHT. HE'S PROBABLY A WANDERER OR A BEGGAR, AN OPPORTUNIST.

THEN WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO...
...WITH THIS MYSTERIOUS FOREIGNER?

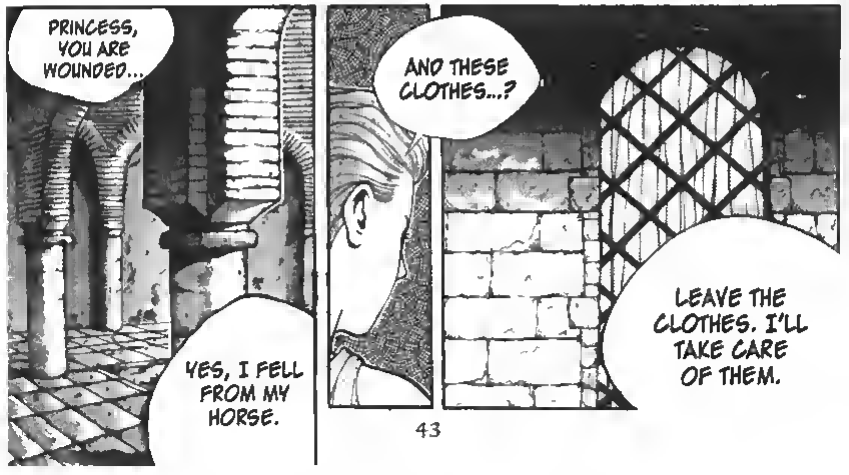
HE MAY BE A SPY FROM ZETSOS.
I CAN'T RISK HAVING HIM AROUND.

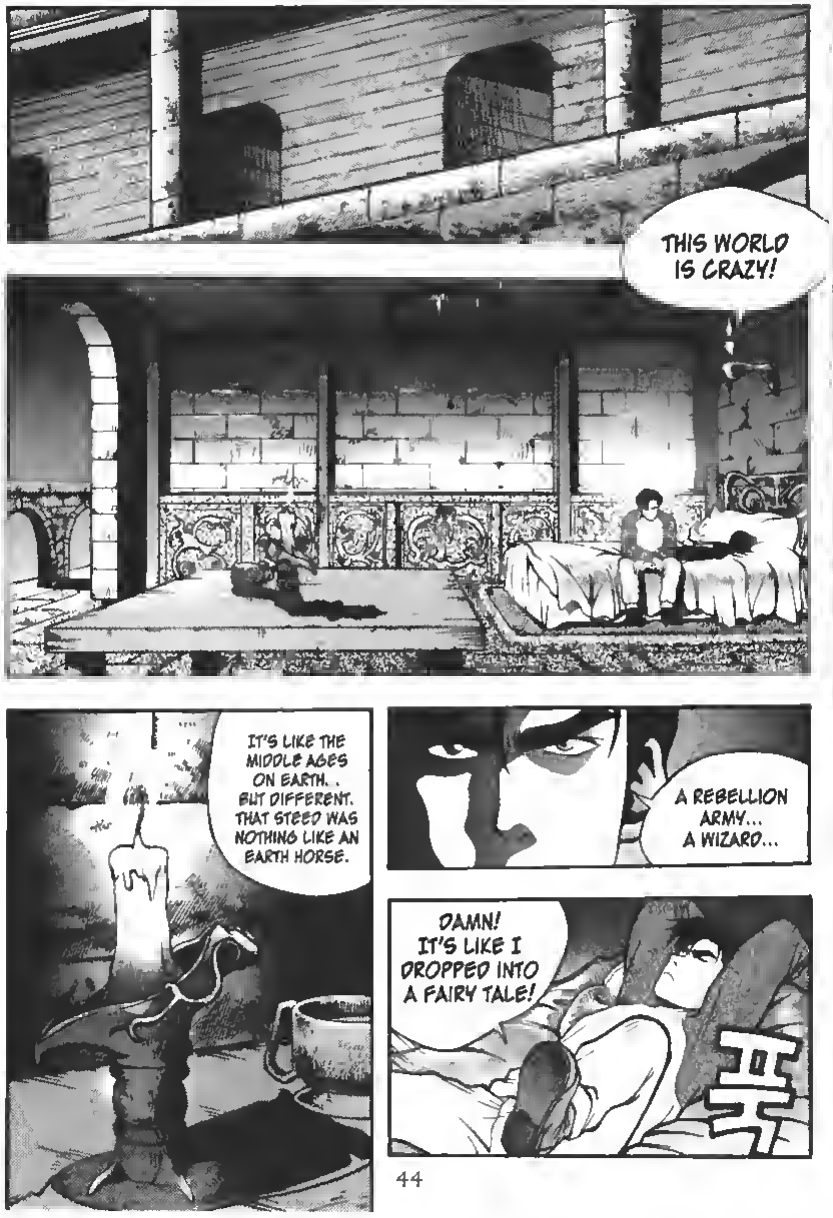
HOW GOES THE PLAN TO ATTACK THE PRATRIAN CASTLE?
OUR FORCES AWAIT YOUR ORDER.

GOOD! THEN WE ATTACK IN THREE DAYS!
IN THE MEAN TIME, KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON THAT FOREIGNER!
HMMPH! NOODLES THINKS HE CAN TREAT EVERYONE LIKE DIRT!

HIS STRATEGIES HAVE KEPT US ALIVE, PRINCESS. HE DESERVES OUR RESPECT.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE'S PERFECT.
TELL ME, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE STRANGER?
HE IS VERY HANDSOME.

AND GOOD... AND QUITE COURTEOUS. I DON'T THINK WE HAVE ANYTHING TO FEAR FROM HIM.


PRINCESS, YOU ARE WOUNDED...
YES, I FELL FROM MY HORSE.
AND THESE CLOTHES...?
LEAVE THE CLOTHES. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM.

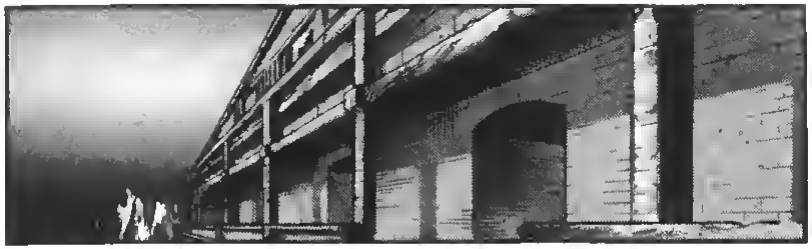

THIS WORLD IS CRAZY!
IT'S LIKE THE MIDDLE AGES ON EARTH. . BUT DIFFERENT. THAT STEED WAS NOTHING LIKE AN EARTH HORSE.
A REBELLION ARMY... A WIZARD...
DAMN! IT'S LIKE I DROPPED INTO A FAIRY TALE!

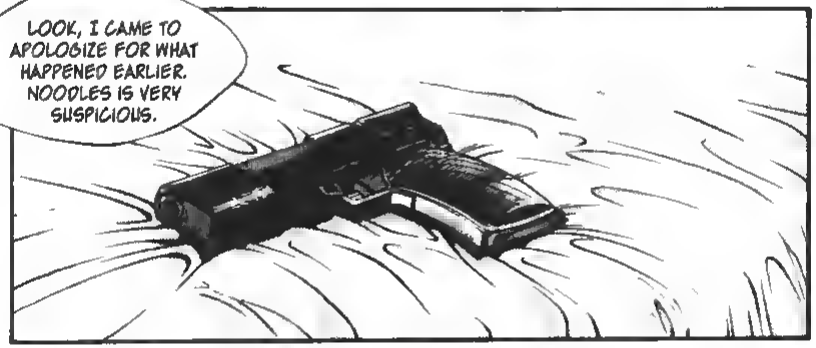
AND EVEN HERE, THERE'S A WAR. NO MATTER WHERE I GO, THERE'S NOTHING BUT WAR.
AND YAN... WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
Hey, Sinan! We're in the same platoon!
Still tryin' to be me, eh?
Whoa! This is our mecha. It used to be a non-combat, civil construction unit! But it has firepower now!
Here's the deal—I'll stay alive if you will!

Well, I'm still alive, Yan. You better keep up your end of the deal.
DAMN IT!
뒤척
Knock Knock
I FOUND SOME FRESH CLOTHES FOR YOU.
MIND IF I COME IN?
TWO MOONS! BOTH BIGGER THAN EARTH'S MOON.
WAIT! IF I'M ON A TOTALLY DIFFERENT WORLD, WHY DO WE SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE? HOW CAN THAT BE?

YOU! WHAT'S THE NAME OF THIS PLANET? WHAT YEAR IS IT?
HUH? WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU...?

ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME OR NOT?
THE YEAR! WHAT YEAR IS IT?
THIS LAND IS CALLED HORAI.
THE YEAR IS 1469 OF THE PRATRIAN CALENDAR.
DOES THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS?



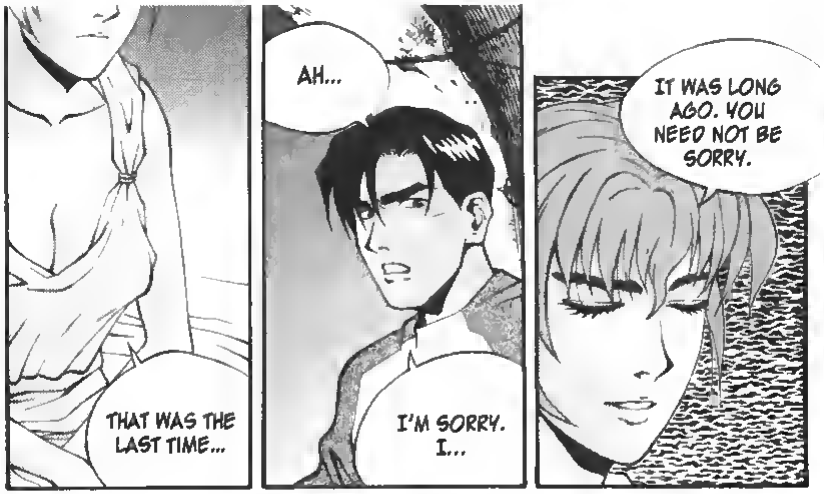

LOOK, I CAME TO APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER. NOODLES IS VERY SUSPICIOUS.

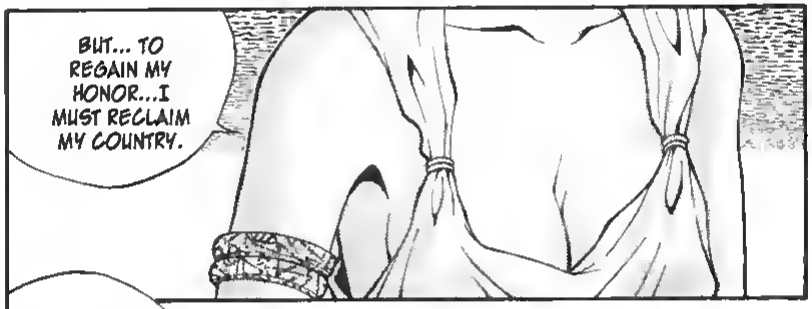
HE HAS TO BE. EVER SINCE THE REVOLUTION BEGAN, ANYONE CAN BE AN ASSASSIN.

REVOLUTION?

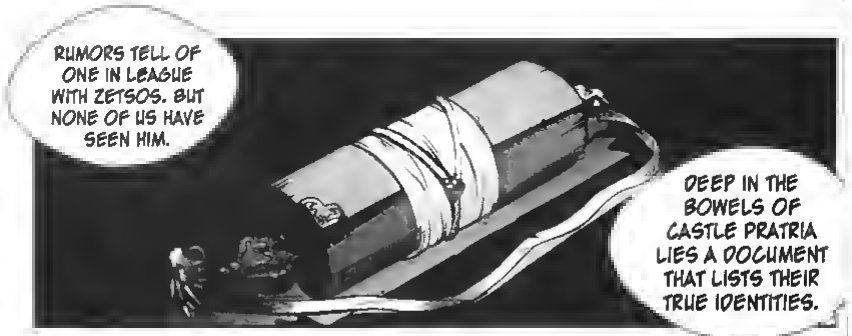
....

IT WAS FIFTEEN YEARS AGO. NOODLES' BROTHER ZETSOS SEIZED THE PRATRIAN THRONE
ZETSOS WAS THE ELDER BROTHER...BUT ONLY BY A FEW SECONDS. NOODLES WAS THE FAVORITE OF THEIR FATHER.
ZETSOS WAS FURIOUS AND LEFT THE KINGDOM, ONLY TO RETURN WITH THE SOLDIERS OF MURSEREK. HE CONQUERED PRATRIA, FORCING NOODLES INTO NIDING.
THE TYRANT CONTINUED AND INVADED THE NEIGHBORING KINGDOM OF GAIYA, MY COUNTRY. WE FELL WITHIN A YEAR.
I MANAGED TO ESCAPE, BUT ZETSOS CAPTURED MY FATHER.


THAT WAS THE LAST TIME...
AH...
I'M SORRY. I...
IT WAS LONG AGO. YOU NEED NOT BE SORRY.


BUT... TO REGAIN MY HONOR...I MUST RECLAIM MY COUNTRY.

SO WHAT ARE THE NEOPTOLEMOS?
YOU TOLD NOODLES I WAS ONE OF THEM.
YES, THE GREAT WARRIOR, PROPHESIED TO RETURN WHEN THE WORLD BURNS IN THE FLAMES OF WAR.
THERE ARE SIX SUCH LEGENDARY NEOPTOLEMOS, THOUGH NO ONE KNOWS WHO THEY ARE.


RUMORS TELL OF ONE IN LEAGUE WITH ZETSOS. BUT NONE OF US HAVE SEEN HIM.
DEEP IN THE BOWELS OF CASTLE PRATRIA LIES A DOCUMENT THAT LISTS THEIR TRUE IDENTITIES.

THEREFORE, NOODLES IS GOING TO ATTACK THE CASTLE.
MOST OF THE MEN FROM OUR FORTRESS ARE ALREADY POSITIONED AROUND THE CASTLE. WE WILL FOLLOW.
NEOPTOLEMOS, EH? HMMM...

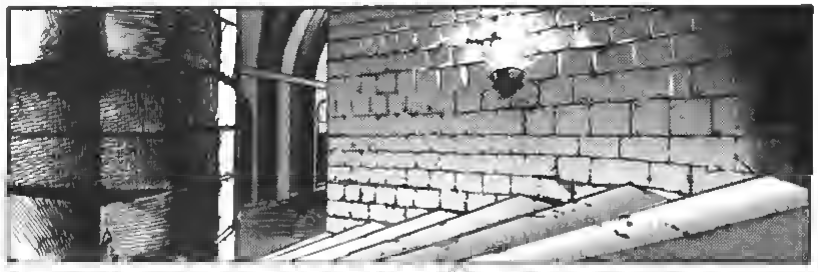
IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, NOODLES...
MY LITTLE BROTHER.

ZETSOS!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
HA HA HA!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
AGH!
KUAAAH!

Huff...
Huff...
Huff...
AGH!
Huff...
A DREAM...
MY WOUND... IT IS ON FIRE...
PRINCE NOODLES, I HEARD YOUR CRY.
WHAT AILS YOU?

IT'S... NOTHING.
JUST A BAD DREAM... WHO ARE YOU?!
I AM CALLED PSYCHE...ONE OF YOUR SERVANTS.
YOU'RE QUITE FEVERISH. PERHAPS--
YOU CALL ME "PRINCE?!"
DO I LOOK LIKE A HERO WHO COULD RECLAIM MY KINGDOM AND CONQUER MURSEREK?
OR AM I JUST A FOOL, UNABLE TO DEFEND HIS COUNTRY OR HIS BRIDE FROM THE WRATH OF A SCORNED BROTHER?

YOU ARE A HERO, PRINCE NOODLES. ONE WHO WILL RECLAIM YOUR FATHER'S COUNTRY AND YOUR FAIR ATALANTE.
AND YOU WILL UNITE THE CONTINENT AND USHER IN A TIME OF PEACE.
IF YOU ARE SURE...
...THEN HELP ME BELIEVE.



HRKKK!

ALL RIGHT, MEN. KILL EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THE RATS.
AND BRING ME THE HEAD OF MAYI RAKISAD.

AN ASSASSIN?!
HOW DID HE FIND US?
THAT STRANGER MUST HAVE LED THEM HERE!

THERE! MAYI RAKISAD!
PRINCESS! LOOK OUT!

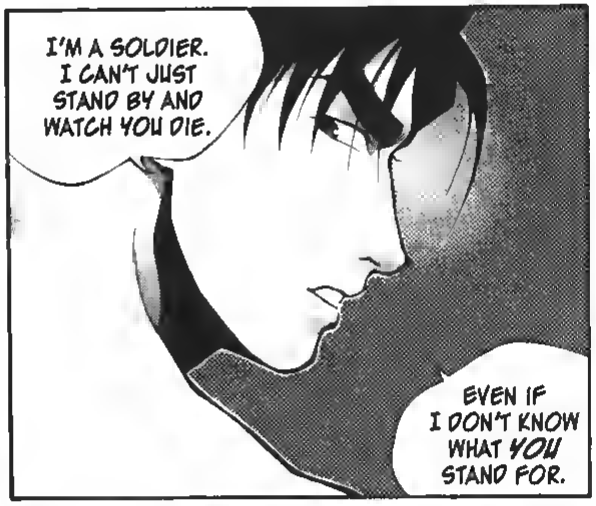
RED BLOOD

SINAN!
Huff...
Huff...
SINAN!
Huff...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M FINE. HE JUST GRAZED ME.
IS IT ALWAYS THIS DANGEROUS AROUND HERE?
WHAT'S GOING ON?

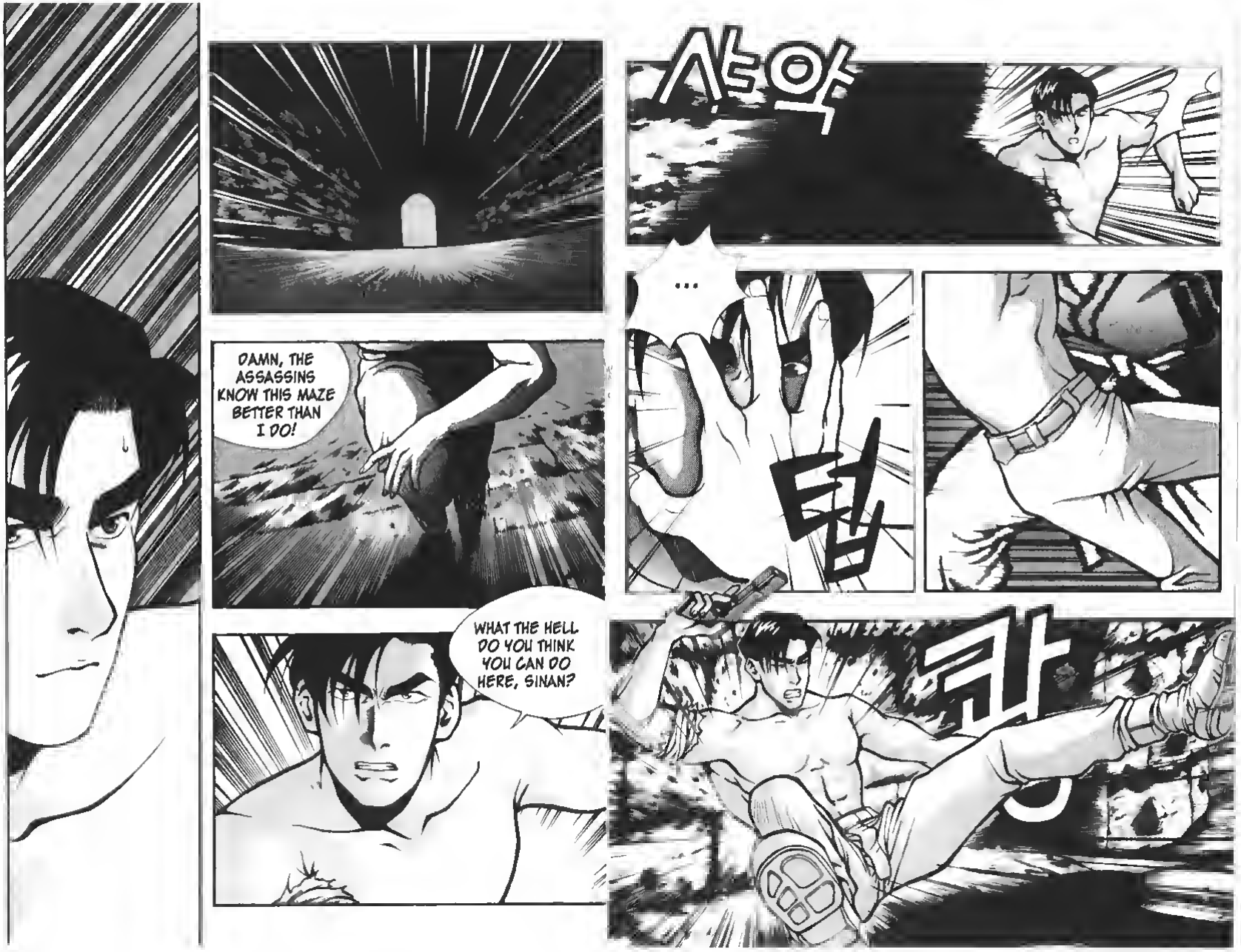
AS IF WAR ON MY OWN WORLD WASN'T BAD ENOUGH, NOW I HAVE TO FIGHT BATTLES *HERE*, TOO?

THERE MAY BE MORE OF THEM. LOCK THE DOOR AND HIDE UNDER THE BED.

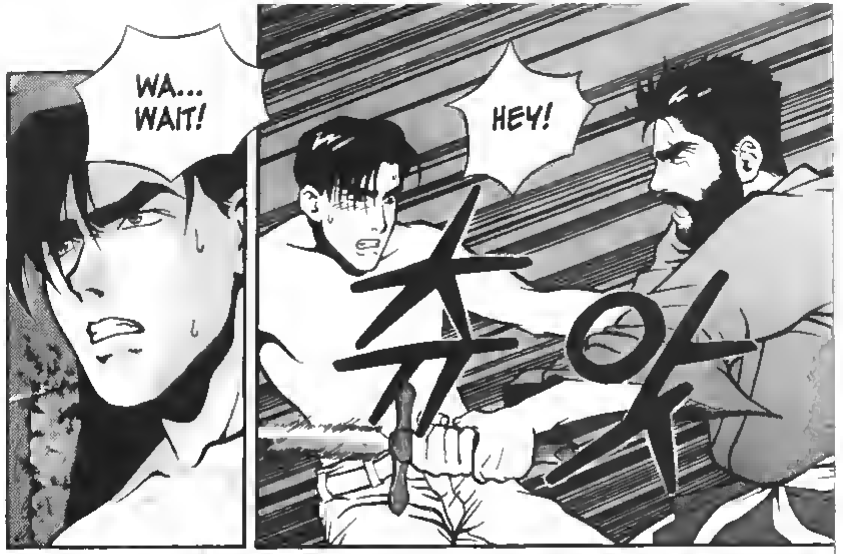
WHY...?
WHY ARE YOU HELPING STRANGERS?


I'M A SOLDIER. I CAN'T JUST STAND BY AND WATCH YOU DIE.
EVEN IF I DON'T KNOW WHAT *YOU* STAND FOR.

BESIDES...
YOU JUST CALLED ME BY MY FIRST NAME. WE'RE NOT STRANGERS ANYMORE.


DAMN, THE ASSASSINS KNOW THIS MAZE BETTER THAN I DO!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO HERE, SINAN?

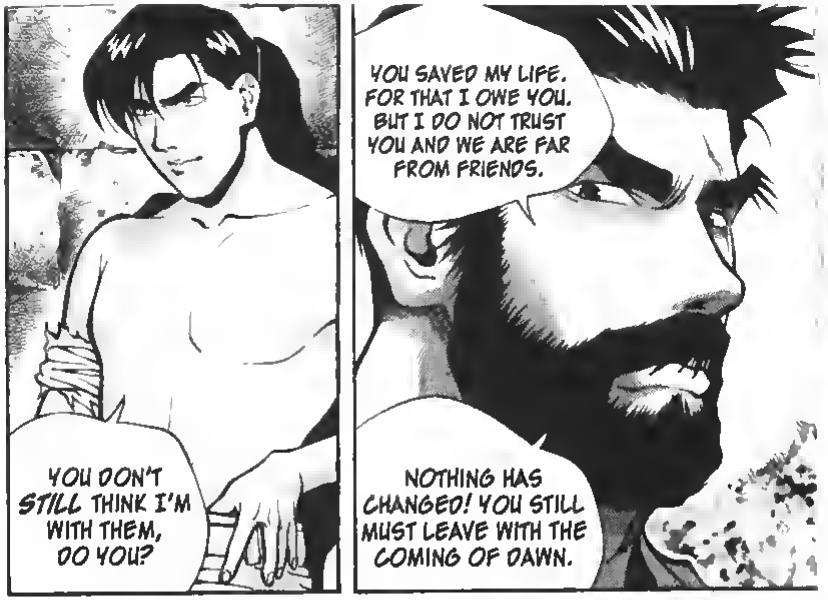
UNHHH...!
THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, STRANGER.
I LET YOU LIVE BECAUSE MAYI VOUCHED FOR YOU, BUT NOW...


WA... WAIT!
HEY!
OK

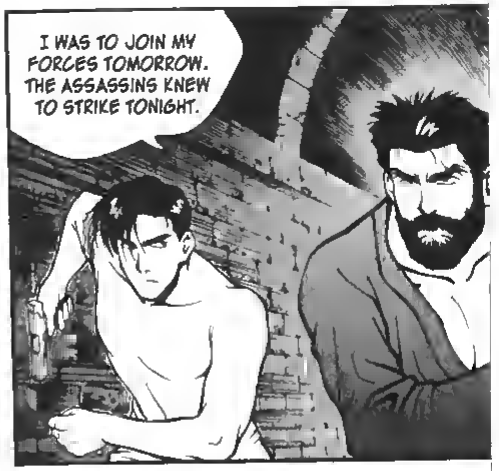
DAMN IT! MAYI AND I WERE ATTACKED, TOO!
SILENCE!
YOU CAN TELL YOUR LIES TO THE DEVIL!

DIE!
DIE

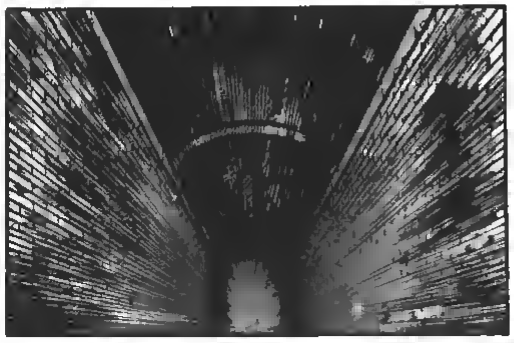
...
IS HE DEAD?
WHAT KIND OF WEAPON IS THAT?
YOU SAID I WASN'T A WIZARD, DIDN'T YOU? SO DON'T WORRY.
BUT THESE ASSASSINS WERE AFTER PRINCESS MAYI.
BEFORE WE DO ANYTHING ELSE, LET'S CLEAN THESE GUYS OUT.
THERE. NOW WILL YOU PLEASE GET THAT SWORD OUT OF MY FACE?
THEY DON'T SEEM LIKE MERCENARIES. THEY'RE TOO WELL TRAINED.
AND MERCENARIES AREN'T COURAGEOUS ENOUGH TO BREAK INTO A FORTRESS... UNLESS THEY HAD INSIDE HELP.

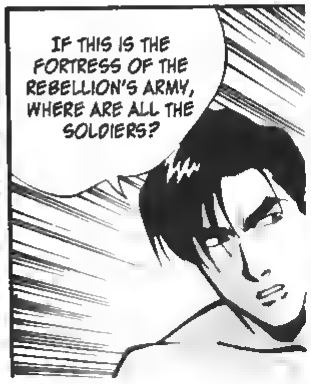

YOU DON'T STILL THINK I'M WITH THEM, DO YOU?
YOU SAVED MY LIFE. FOR THAT I OWE YOU. BUT I DO NOT TRUST YOU AND WE ARE FAR FROM FRIENDS.
NOTHING HAS CHANGED! YOU STILL MUST LEAVE WITH THE COMING OF DAWN.

THREE HUNDRED SOLDIERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISPATCHED TO CASTLE PRATRIA.
THERE ARE BUT TEN GUARDS REMAINING.

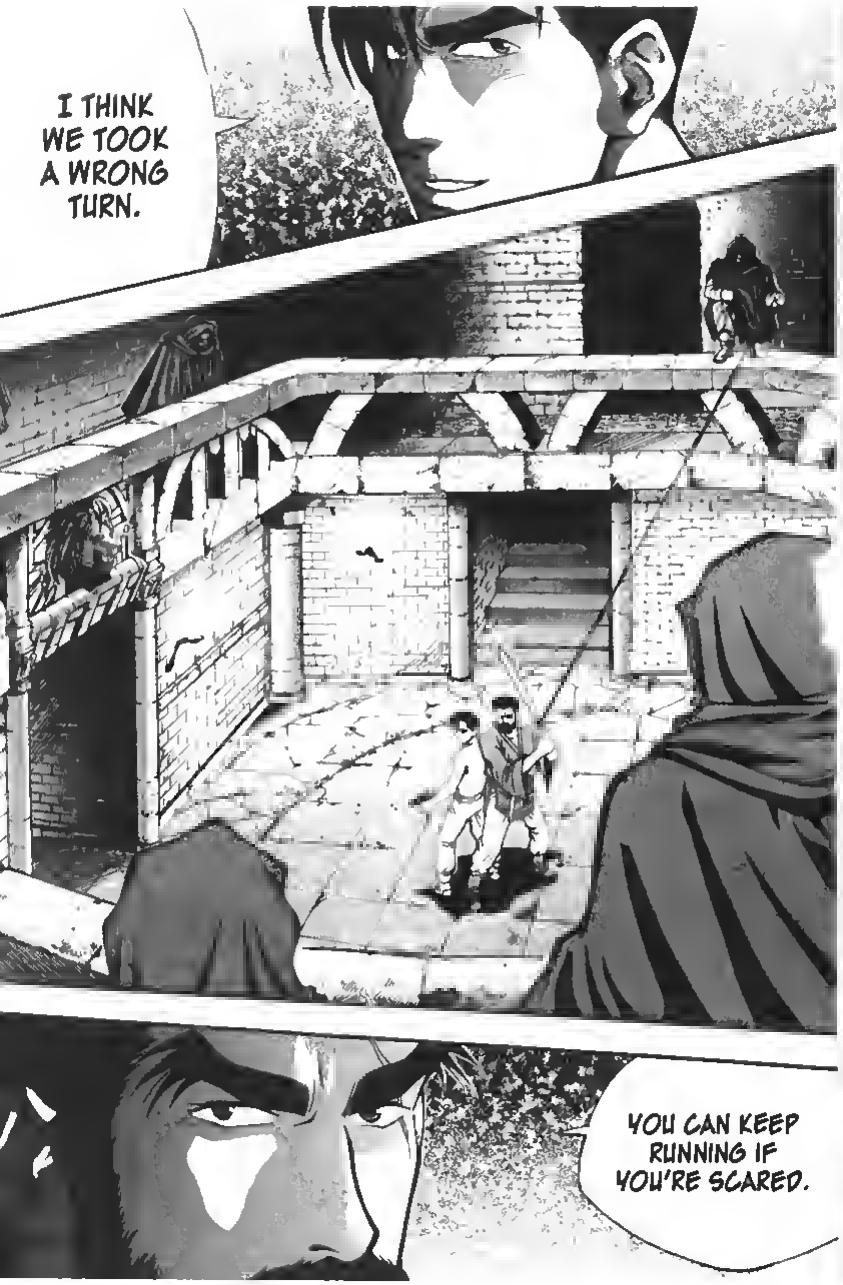

I WAS TO JOIN MY FORCES TOMORROW. THE ASSASSINS KNEW TO STRIKE TONIGHT.

HEY, WHATEVER.
I DON'T LIKE YOU, EITHER.




IF THIS IS THE FORTRESS OF THE REBELLION'S ARMY, WHERE ARE ALL THE SOLDIERS?

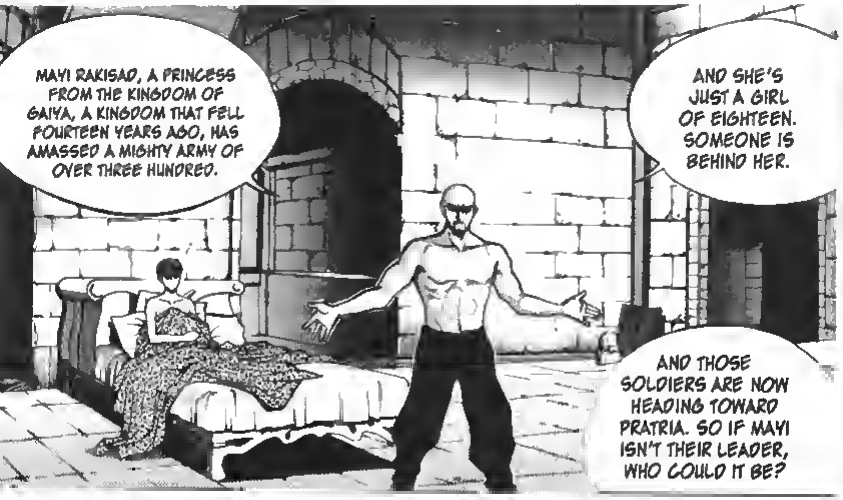
AH
OF


I THINK WE TOOK A WRONG TURN.
YOU CAN KEEP RUNNING IF YOU'RE SCARED.

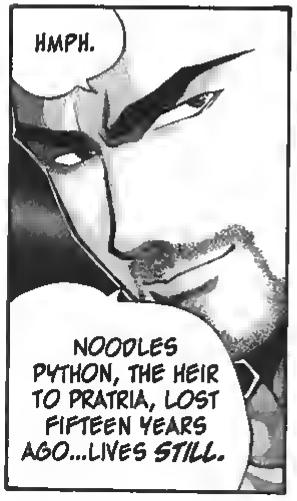
THE AMBUSH MUST BE OVER BY NOW, LORD PANTERA. DO YOU THINK THEY SUCCEEDED?

IT MATTERS NOT WHETHER THEY SUCCEED, MINTE. IT WAS A TEST.

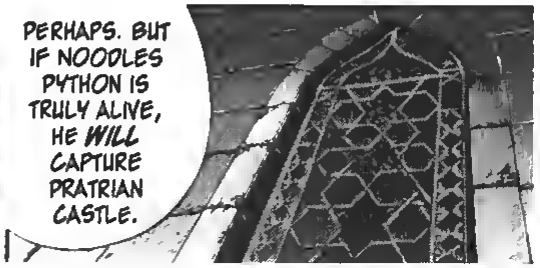
A TEST OF WHAT?


MAYI RAKISAD, A PRINCESS FROM THE KINGDOM OF GAIYA, A KINGDOM THAT FELL FOURTEEN YEARS AGO, HAS AMASSED A MIGHTY ARMY OF OVER THREE HUNDRED.
AND SHE'S JUST A GIRL OF EIGHTEEN. SOMEONE IS BEHIND HER.
AND THOSE SOLDIERS ARE NOW HEADING TOWARD PRATRIA. SO IF MAYI ISN'T THEIR LEADER, WHO COULD IT BE?

YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING THAT IT'S...
...NOODLES PYTHON? HE'S LONG DEAD.


HMPH.
NOODLES PYTHON, THE HEIR TO PRATRIA, LOST FIFTEEN YEARS AGO...LIVES STILL.

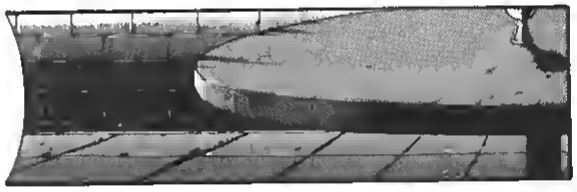
AND IF THOSE ASSASSINS FAIL, WE'LL KNOW THAT FOR SURE.


PERHAPS. BUT IF NOODLES PYTHON IS TRULY ALIVE, HE WILL CAPTURE PRATRIAN CASTLE.

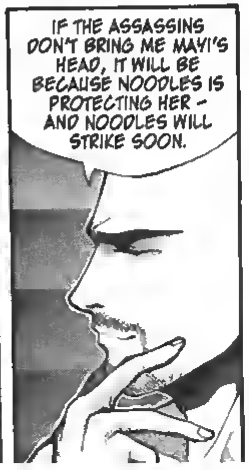
FIFTEEN YEARS AGO ZETSOS AND MURSEREK CONQUERED PRATRIA, ALONG WITH NEIGHBORING GAIYA AND MEZZOKISON.
AND MURSEREK GAVE MEZZOKISON TO ZETSOS. WHY NOT PRATRIA?

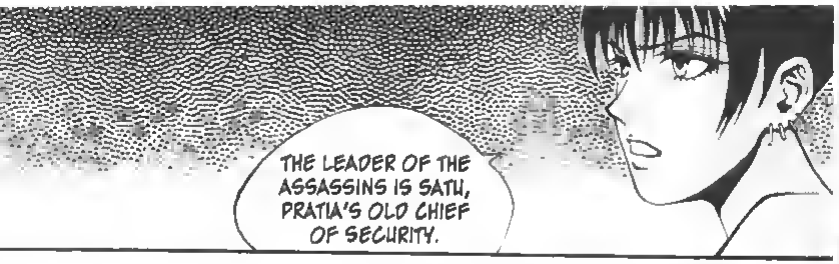
BECAUSE MURSEREK LONGED FOR THE QUEEN OF PRATRIA, ATALANTE.

NO! THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT.
PRATRIA HIDES A GREAT SECRET. A SECRET THAT WILL UNLOCK POWER ENOUGH TO CONQUER THE WHOLE WORLD. AND TELAMON, PRATRIA'S CHIEF MINISTER, HOLDS THE KEY TO THE SECRET.

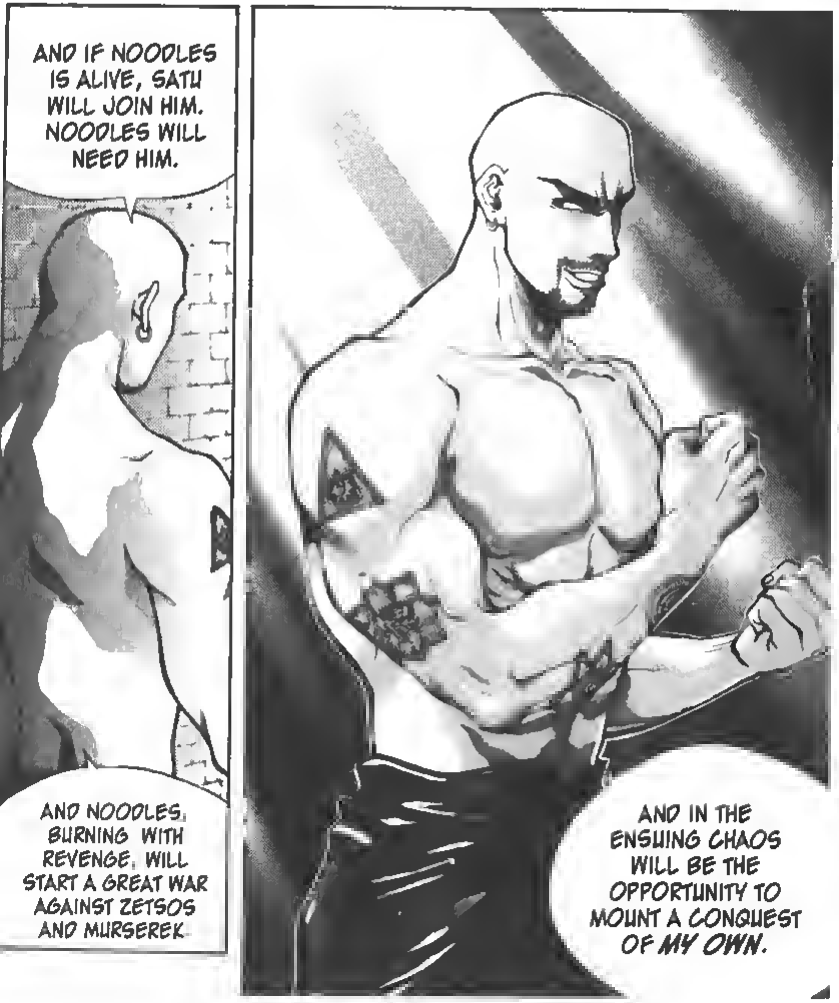

MURSEREK'S BROTHER CONTROLS THE CASTLE. NOT ZETSOS.

SO, NOODLES, IF HE IS ALIVE, WILL ATTEMPT TO RESCUE TELAMON FROM THE DUNGEON OF CASTLE PRATRIA.


IF THE ASSASSINS DON'T BRING ME MAYI'S HEAD, IT WILL BE BECAUSE NOODLES IS PROTECTING HER - AND NOODLES WILL STRIKE SOON.


THE LEADER OF THE ASSASSINS IS SATU, PRATIA'S OLD CHIEF OF SECURITY.

HIIII-
YAH!


AND IF NOODLES IS ALIVE, SATU WILL JOIN HIM. NOODLES WILL NEED HIM.
AND NOODLES, BURNING WITH REVENGE, WILL START A GREAT WAR AGAINST ZETSOS AND MURSEREK.
AND IN THE ENSUING CHAOS WILL BE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MOUNT A CONQUEST OF *MY OWN*.

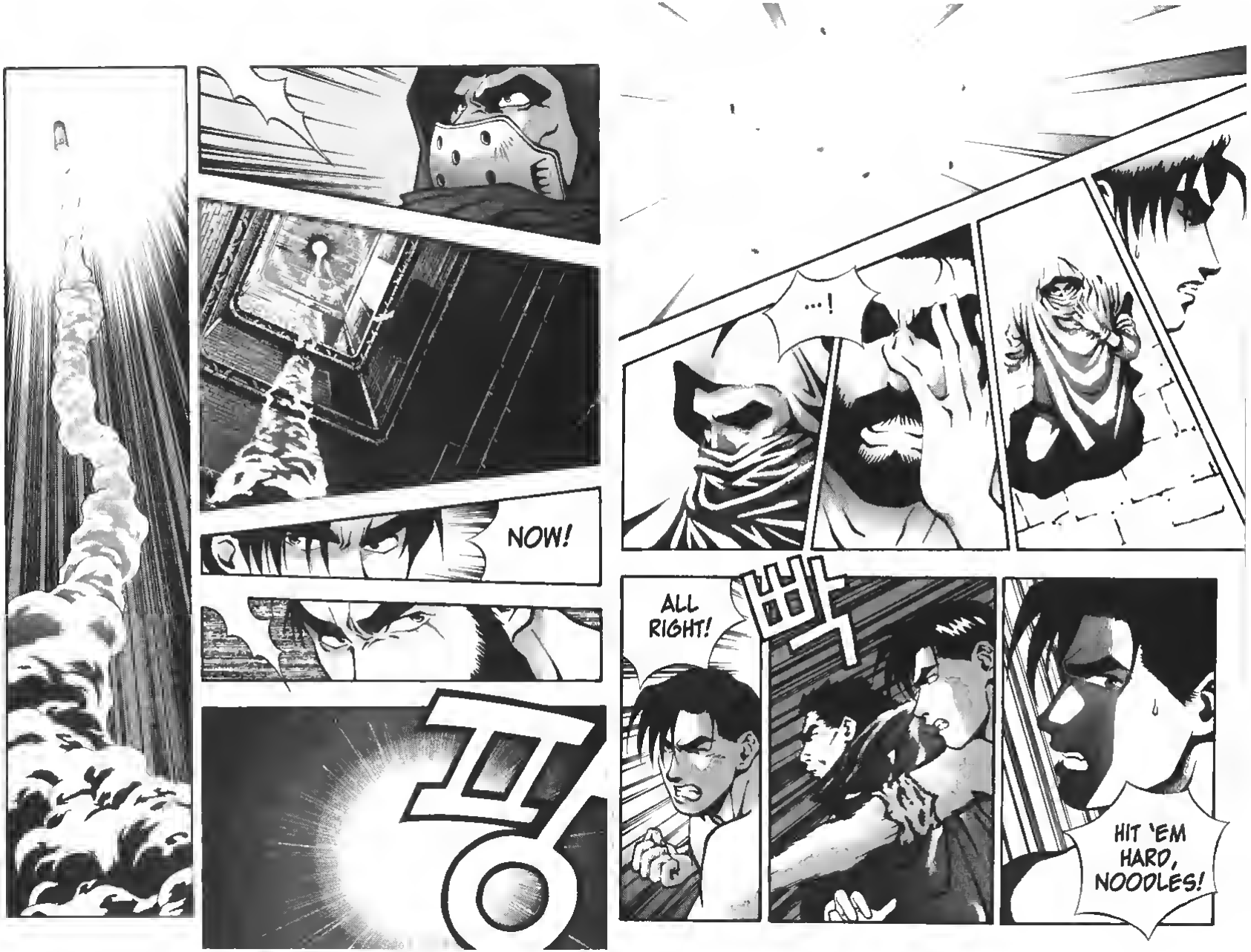
THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM!
YOUR WHINES DISTRACT ME!
DO YOU WANT ME TO FIGHT YOURS, AS WELL?
PLEASE DO.

OWWW!
!!
YOU MOVE FAST, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT!
BUT I SHOOT FASTER!

A SORCERER?
ONLY TWO SHOTS LEFT!
AND BASIC TRAINING DIDN'T INCLUDE SWORDPLAY!
OKAY, WE'VE GOT SIX GUYS LEFT.
THIS PLACE HAS A HIGH CEILING AND IS DARK AS HELL.

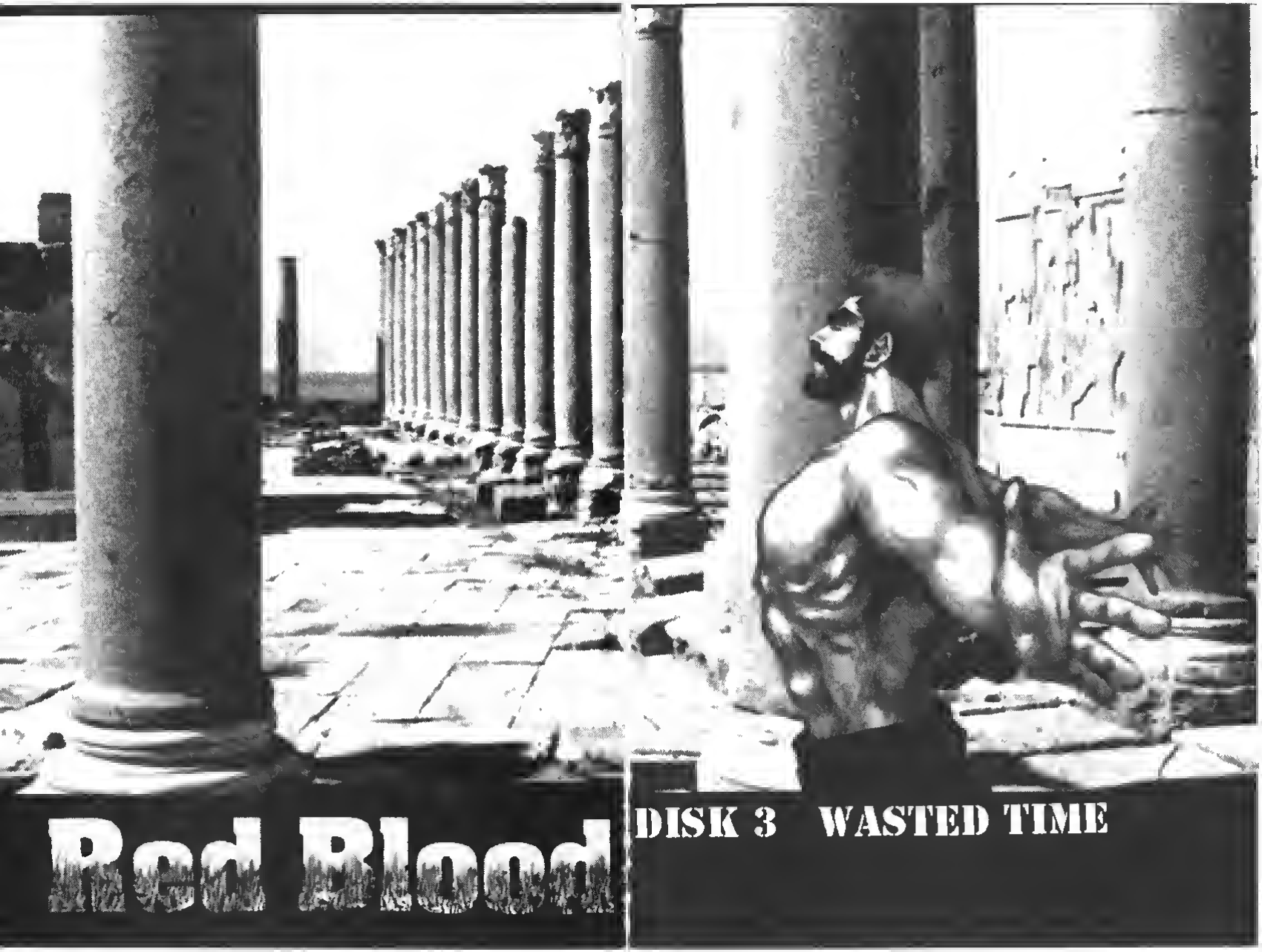
TIME TO GAMBLE!
NOODLES, DO YOU TRUST ME?
WHAT?
DO YOU TRUST ME?

WHEN I SAY SO, CLOSE YOUR EYES! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
WHAT?
THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT IS NO PLACE TO GAIN MY TRUST!
HOO


NOW!
...!
ALL RIGHT!
HIT 'EM HARD, NOODLES!

NOODLES...?
I TOLD YOU TO CLOSE YOUR EYES!
I'M BLIND! WHAT THE DEVIL DID YOU DO?
WHY WOULD I CLOSE MY EYES IN THE MIDST OF COMBAT?
I FIRED A MAGNESIUM TRACER SHELL! IT'S NOT PERMANENT, IT--
UNH!
OW!

FINALLY, AN END TO THIS FOOLISHNESS.


Red Blood
DISK 3 WASTED TIME

I AM SURPRISED TO FIND A WIZARD IN THIS REBEL HIVE.
I WAS TOLD THE OTHER WAS IN LEAGUE WITH ZETSOS.
THE OTHER?! SO, THESE ASSASSINS WERE NOT SENT BY MY BROTHER.
YOU'RE NOT AS SKILLED AS TELAMON, BUT I AM NONETHELESS IMPRESSED WITH YOUR SKILLS.
THE REST OF YOU! SEEK OUT PRINCESS MAYI!
NO NEED! I'M RIGHT HERE!
MAYI?
HEH HEH... YOU COME TO US WILLINGLY.
I TOLD YOU TO STAY PUT!
I'M SORRY, SINAN. BUT I CAN'T HAVE YOU DIE FOR MY SAKE.
I'VE BEEN FIGHTING SO LONG TO HONOR MY FATHER'S MEMORY... BUT I SHOULD HAVE DIED LONG AGO.
I'M SORRY, NOODLES... BECAUSE OF ME...

NOODLES?! YOU?!
YOU ARE NOODLES PYTHON?!
I AM NOODLES PYTHON. I DON'T KNOW WHO SENT YOU. BUT I'M SURE HE WILL BE HAPPY WITH MY HEAD.
KILL ME QUICKLY.
턱석
PRINCE NOODLES, IT'S ME!
WHAT?

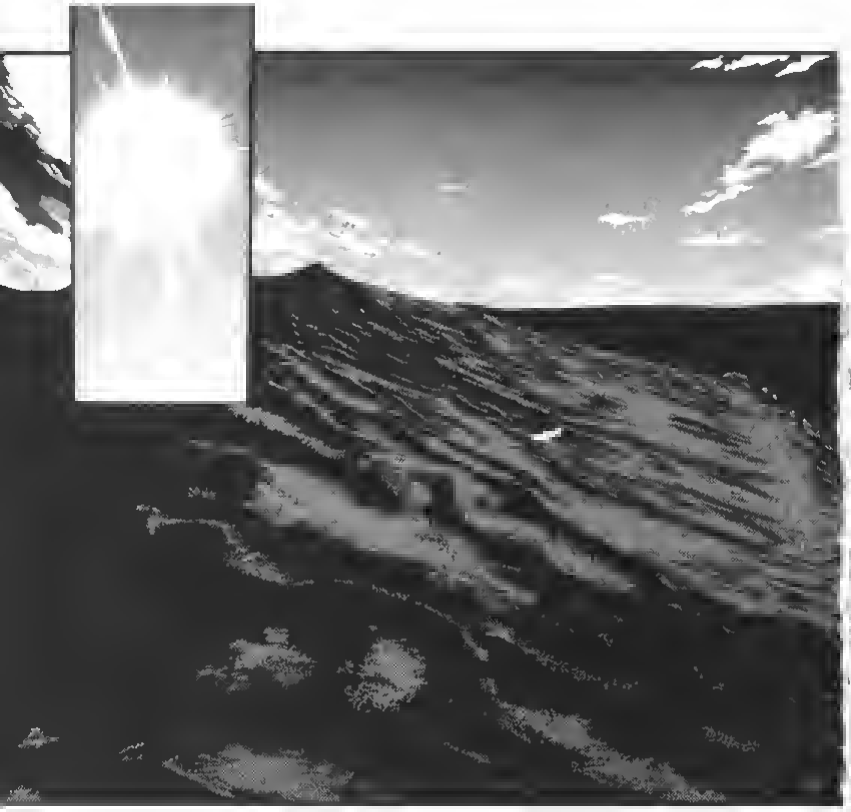
IT'S SATU. FORMER CHIEF OF SECURITY OF THE KINGDOM OF PRATRIA. I... I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE ALIVE!
TO HAVE YOU STAND BEFORE ME, YOU WHO I THOUGHT DEAD THESE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS...
IT IS MY CRIME TO NOT HAVE RECOGNIZED YOU!
THESE EYES HAVE FAILED ME.

I BEG YOU TO TAKE ONE AS AN OFFERING OF FORGIVENESS.

THIS PLANET HAS AN INCREDIBLE HISTORY...
...BUT IT'S NOT MY HISTORY. I DON'T BELONG HERE.
I MEAN, I DON'T BELIEVE IN ANYTHING ENOUGH TO GOUGE OUT ONE OF MY EYES.

WHEN THAT SUN SETS, AND A NEW SUN RISES, THIS WORLD WILL NO LONGER BE THE SAME.
TOMORROW THIS WORLD WILL BE A PLANET OF BLOOD.
WHERE IS THE STRANGER... SINAN?
HE LEFT AT DAWN, RESPECTING YOUR ORDER.
...

IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO SEE HIM DIE IN THE DESERT.
...
WE WILL ENCOUNTER HIM AGAIN.
TO PRATRIA!
OUR ARMY AWAITS TO RECLAIM OUR KINGDOM!
PRINCE NOODLES WILL SUCCEED.
SUCCEED OR FAIL, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.
ALL I CAN DO...ALL I EVER DO...IS WATCH THEM LEAVE.
BUT I WILL CHANGE.
I WILL BECOME WORTHY TO FIGHT ALONG SIDE THEM!



DAMN. I SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST STOLEN A HORSE OR SOMETHING.

I'M SO THIRSTY.
AND I'M HUNGRY, TOO. WHEW...
털썩
I GOT TO BE PRETTY CLOSE...
...TO WHERE I LANDED.
WHEW, IT'S HOT.
톡톡
HMM?

IN MY TIME OF NEED, YOU AIDED ME. IT IS TIME I DID THE SAME.
I'M NOT SURE HOW I CAN HELP YOU, BUT I'LL TRY.
WE MUST BE NEAR THE PRATRIAN BORDER.
ME AND THE REST OF THE COLONY MUST HAVE FALLEN THROUGH A SPACE/TIME FISSURE.
COLONY?
YOU WON'T BELIEVE ME UNLESS I CAN SHOW IT TO YOU.
AH. THERE IT IS!
MAYI?

812
끼익
THIS IS INCREDIBLE! I DIDN'T KNOW SUCH WEAPONS EXISTED!
THEY DON'T. NOT HERE THE LEFT ARM'S GONE, THE HEAD CANOPY HAS BEEN BLOWN OFF. BUT I HAVE ABOUT SEVEN HOURS WORTH OF FUEL THAT'S ABOUT FIVE AND A HALF INSIDE A PLANETARY GRAVITY FIELD.
850 ROUNDS OF AMMO; FOUR IMPACT MISSILES.
AND A MAVERICK MODEL 93 WIRELESS RADIO...BUT THAT'S USELESS HERE.
IS THIS MORE OF YOUR MAGIC?
MAGIC? I GUESS IT'S A KIND OF MAGIC, TO A PLACE LIKE THIS.
SO YOU CAN HELP NOODLES WIN THIS WAR!
어떵
HELP NOODLES?
WHAT?
WHY NOT?
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO?
GO TO NOODLES! SHOW HIM WHAT YOUR SORCERY CAN DO!
끼아아아아
I'LL LEAD THE WAY!

IS THIS WHAT YOU USE IN PLACE OF STEEDS ON YOUR WORLD?
NO, WE ALSO HAVE HORSES. THIS IS A WEAPON.
BUT I HAVE TO CONSERVE FUEL, SO WE'LL RUN RATHER THAN FLY.
AT THIS SPEED, WE'LL BE AT CASTLE PRATRIA IN LESS THEN TWO HOURS.
UHH... MAYI?
SO, YOU AND NOODLES...
... WHAT?
NOTH-ING. IT'S STUPID.

TO THEM, THE NUMBERS. TO US, THE VICTORY!
CONQUER ALL, BUT DESTROY NOTHING! TELAMON IS A CAPTIVE SOME-WHERE IN THIS CASTLE!
THIS CASTLE WAS ONCE MINE! AND IT WILL BE AGAIN!

A HAWK IS BOUND TO SIT UPON THE SHOULDER OF HIS MASTER.
SO SATU SITS ON THE SHOULDERS OF NOODLES.
THE TIME DRAWS NEAR.

Minte (18 years old)
A female warrior under Pantera's command, she wields a sword shaped like a plantain flower. She has no memory of her childhood
NOODLES IS THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE THRONE. THE OLD WARRIORS OF PRATRIA WILL FLOCK TO HIM.
HE'S ONE OF THE TWIN SONS OF THE LION KING HECTOR, BORN FROM THE WOMB CLUTCHING THE ANKLES OF HIS OLDER BROTHER.
ZETSOS GREW UP A CRIPPLE WHILE NOODLES GREW UP AN HEIR.
ZETSOS, THE LION CUB, FINALLY DISCOVERED HIS CLAWS...
...BUT IF I AM TO SOAR LIKE AN EAGLE, I MUST EARN MY WINGS – BY SLAYING ZETSOS.

SPARE YOUR LIVES, YOU FOOLS!
RETURN THIS CASTLE TO THE RIGHTFUL KING!
DARE YOU STAND IN THE PATH OF SATU!
WE ARE UNDER ATTACK!
WHO DARES TO INVADE THIS CASTLE?
I BELIEVE IT IS THE YOUNGER SON OF HECTOR
NOODLES? THE HEIR TO PRATRIA?
RIDICULOUS! HE DIED FIFTEEN YEARS AGO!
SIRE, WE MUST EVACUATE NOW, OR RISK YOUR CAPTURE!
I AM THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF MURSEREK THE GREAT!
NO ONE WOULD DARE LAY A HAND ON ME!
GUARD THE EASTERN GATE. THEY'LL TRY TO FREE TELAMON!
HMMM...
MY MASTER COMES.

WELL, IT HAS BEEN FIFTEEN YEARS... I SUPPOSE IT'S TIME.

와아아

SATU!
YES, SIR NOODLES!

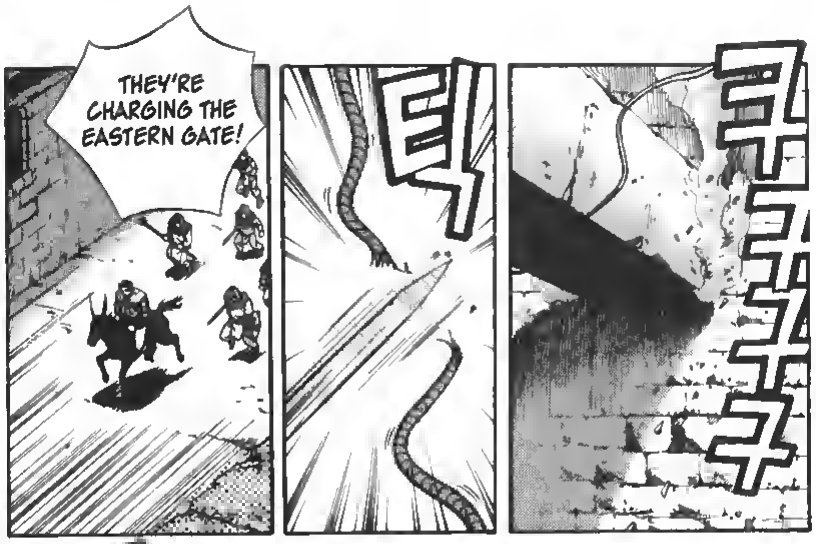
I'LL ATTACK THE EASTERN GATE AS A DIVERSION! YOU CONCENTRATE ON THE CASTLE TURRET AND SEIZE THIS BROTHER OF MURSEREK!
YES, SIR!

SO YOU TOO STAND AGAINST ME!
THOSE WHO DO SO WILL EARN ONLY THEIR DEATHS!

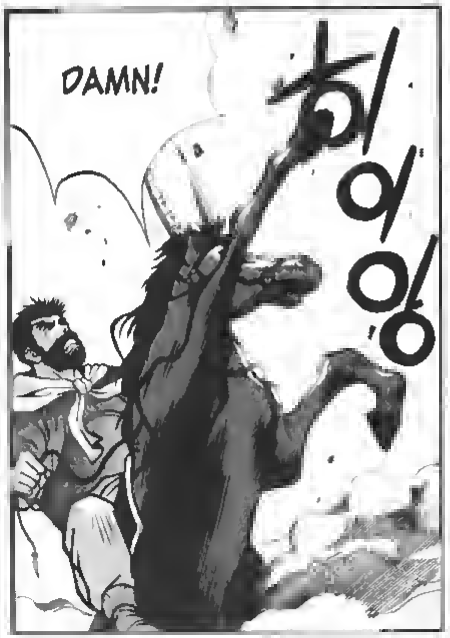
TELAMON...

I PRAY YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.

YOUR DISCIPLE AND MASTER COMES TO SAVE YOUR LIFE...OR BURY YOUR BONES!


THEY'RE CHARGING THE EASTERN GATE!

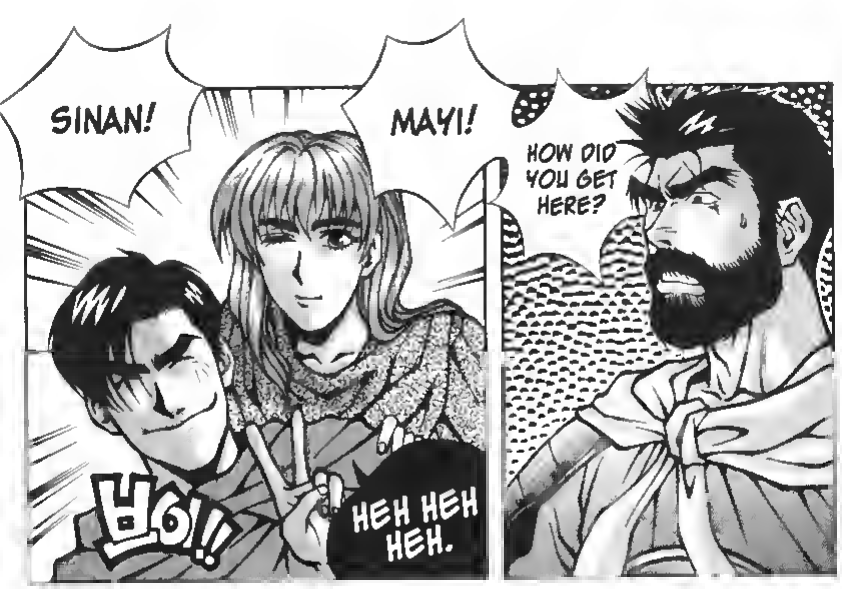
WHOA!


DAMN!

TAKE COVER, MEN! SHIELD YOURSELVES, BEFORE--!

TAKE AIM! FIRE!
ARGH!
UNHHH!
AN AMBUSH!
SIR NOODLES, I ADVISE A RETREAT!
WE CANNOT! THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO THE EASTERN TOWER!
BUT...
WHAT IS...?

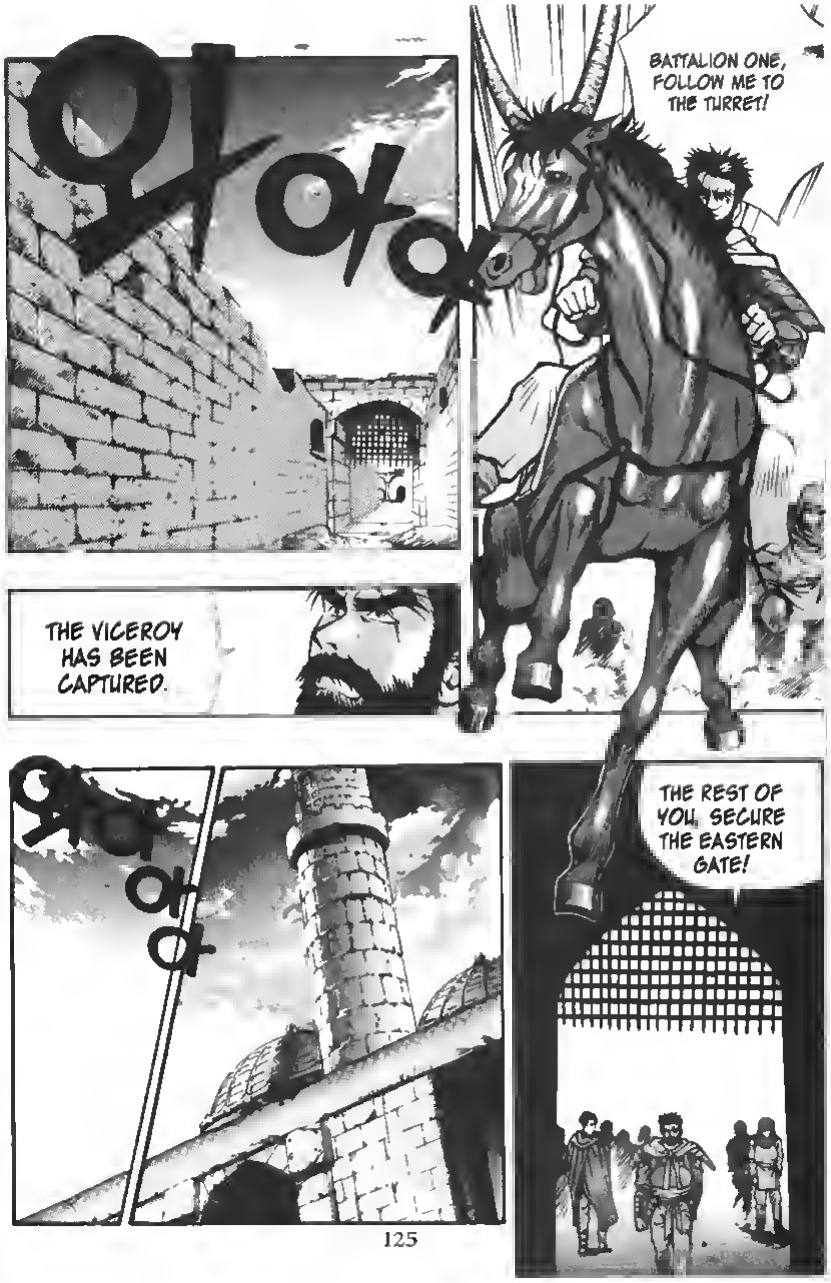
812F
REINFORCE-MENTS HAVE ARRIVED, NOODLES!

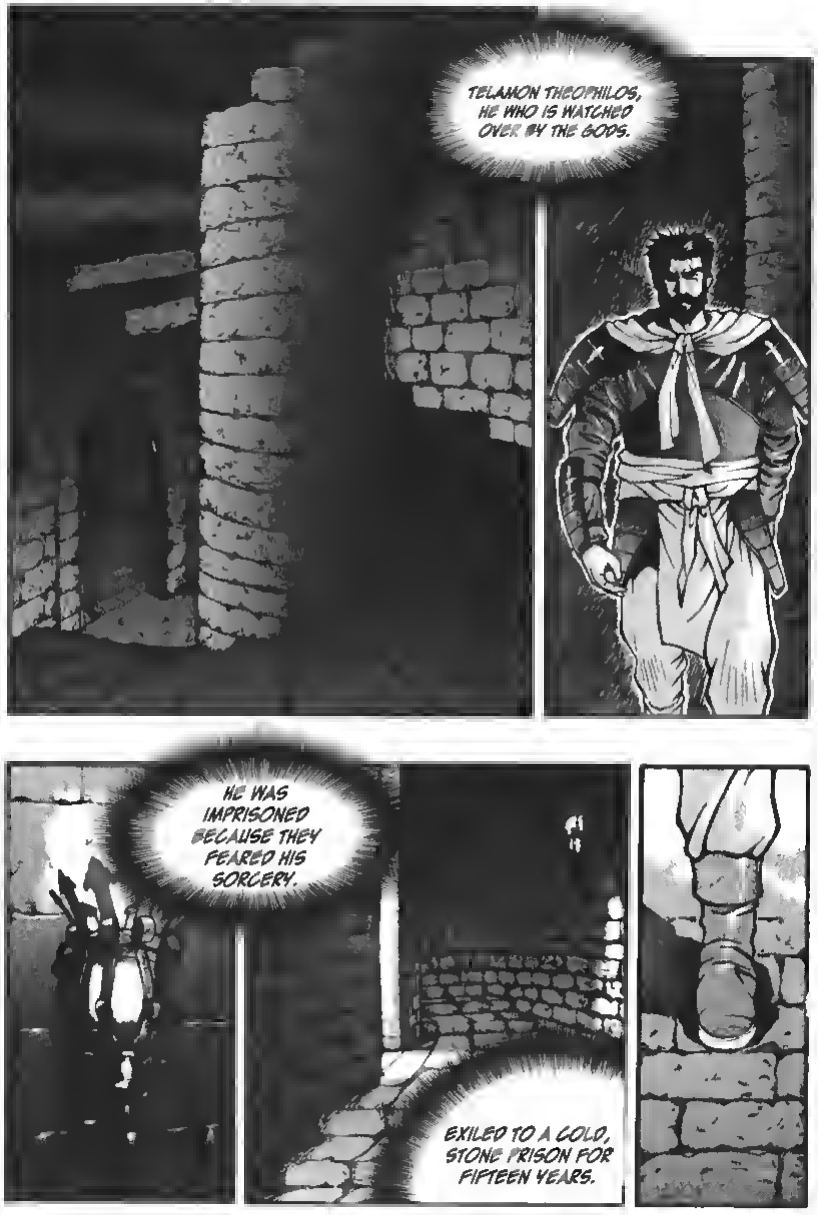

SINAN!
MAYI!
HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
HEH HEH HEH.

WELL...I REALIZED THAT I HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO. SO I THOUGHT I MIGHT IMPOSE UPON YOUR HOSPITALITY FOR ONE MORE NIGHT.

HMPH.

ALL RIGHT. BUT JUST ONE NIGHT MORE.

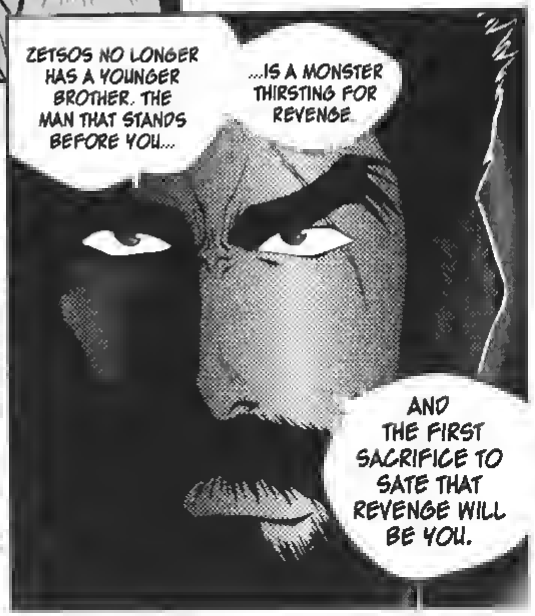

BATTALION ONE, FOLLOW ME TO THE TURRET!
THE VICEROY HAS BEEN CAPTURED.
THE REST OF YOU, SECURE THE EASTERN GATE!


TELAMON THEOPHILOS, HE WHO IS WATCHED OVER BY THE GODS.
HE WAS IMPRISONED BECAUSE THEY FEARED HIS SORCERY.
EXILED TO A COLD, STONE PRISON FOR FIFTEEN YEARS.

PRINCE NOODLES. IT'S ABOUT TIME.
MASTER...
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO STOP LOAFING AROUND HERE AND STAND BY MY SIDE ONCE AGAIN.
IF THAT IS WHAT MY MASTER DESIRES.

NOODLES! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
SURELY, YOUR OLDER BROTHER SHOULD HAVE SLAIN YOU!

HE DID. NOODLES, THE SON OF HECTOR, IS INDEED DEAD.


ZETSOS NO LONGER HAS A YOUNGER BROTHER. THE MAN THAT STANDS BEFORE YOU...
...IS A MONSTER THIRSTING FOR REVENGE.
AND THE FIRST SACRIFICE TO SATE THAT REVENGE WILL BE YOU.

YAN...

I WONDER IF HE IS LOOKING UP AT THE SAME BLUE SKY.
A SKY UNDER WHICH ANOTHER WAR BOILS.

허허허
YOU CAN'T KILL ME! MY OLDER BROTHER MURSEREK IS THE RULER OF THE CONTINENT!

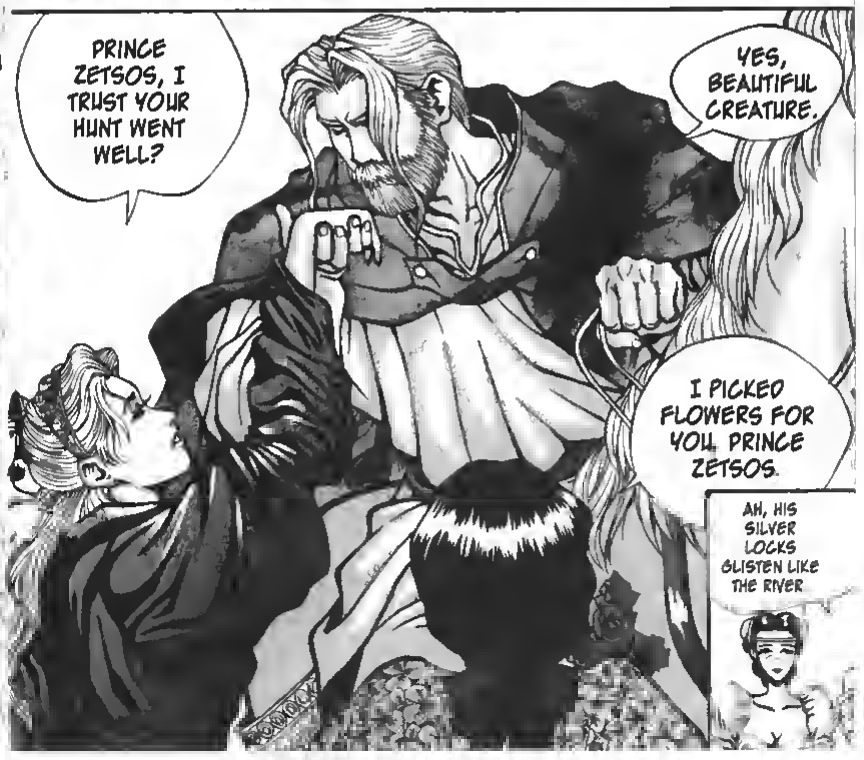
IS THAT SO?

HIKKAK!
피

PRINCE ZETSOS IS HERE! RAISE THE GATES!

드드드

DUMP HIS BODY IN THE NORTH FIELDS WHERE THE WILD ANIMALS CAN FEAST UPON IT. BUT HIS HEAD SEND TO MURSEREK
MY REVENGE IS JUST BEGINNING. AND IT WILL END WITH...

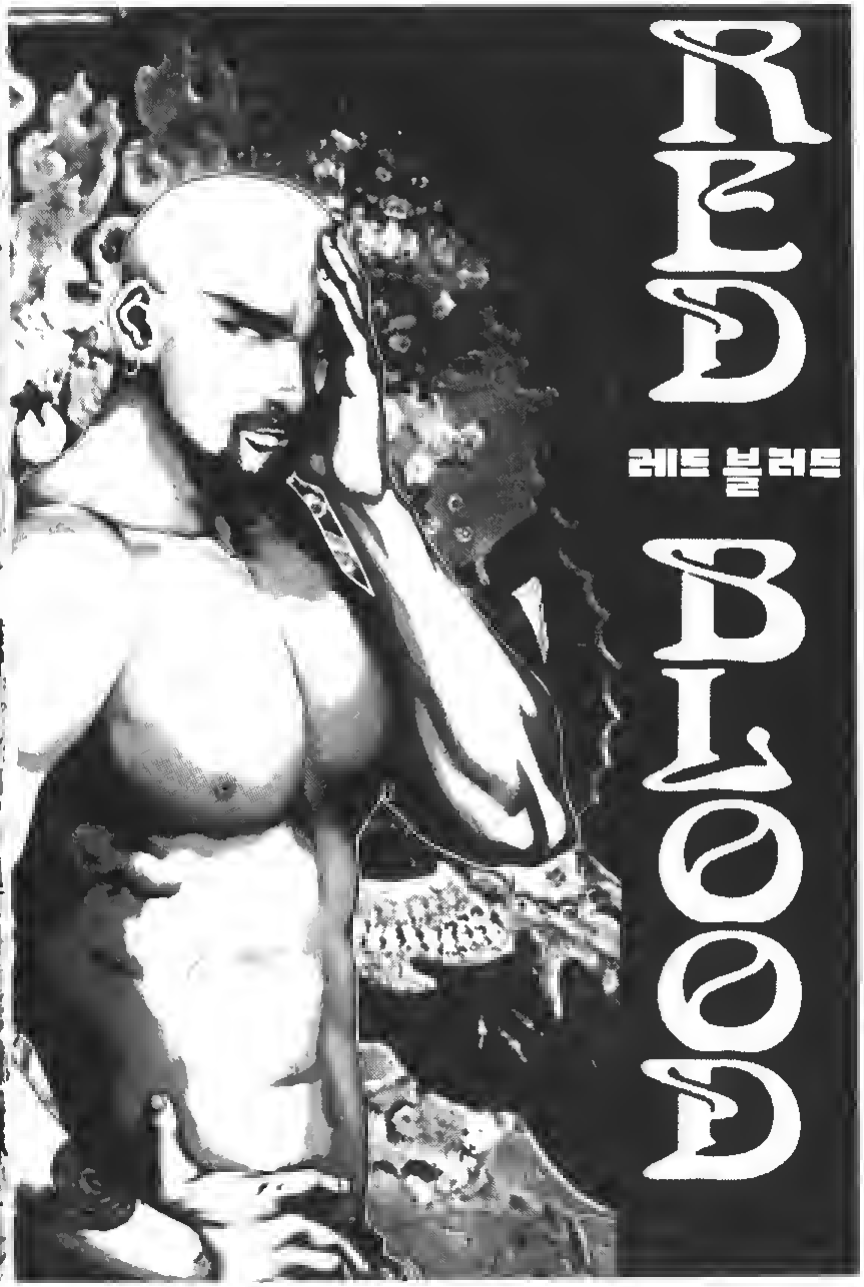

PRINCE ZETSOS, I TRUST YOUR HUNT WENT WELL?
YES, BEAUTIFUL CREATURE.
I PICKED FLOWERS FOR YOU, PRINCE ZETSOS.
AH, HIS SILVER LOCKS GLISTEN LIKE THE RIVER

I'VE BEEN WAITING, PRINCE ZETSOS.

YAN.
I'M VERY TIRED NOW. WE'LL TALK LATER.

CASTLE PRATRIA HAS FALLEN.

WHAT?!


RED BLOOD
레드 블러드

May 17th, 1431

An heir was to be born to His Royal Majesty Hector, King of Pratria.

But the single heir turned out to be twins.

Twins whose lifelong conflict began in the womb.

The younger followed the older by seconds, clutching his brother's ankles.

The older brother was called Zetsos, The younger Noodles.

As the boys grew into men, King Hector began to favor the younger, strong and powerful as he was. Zetsos was crippled, injured at birth by the powerful grip of his younger brother. Noodles studied swordsmanship from the Chief of Security Satu, and academics from the great wizard and minister Telamon.

And he was betrothed to the princess Atalante of Mezzokison, an allied kingdom.

Zetsos cried in anger and envy.

But he hid his feelings from Noodles. He always cried alone.

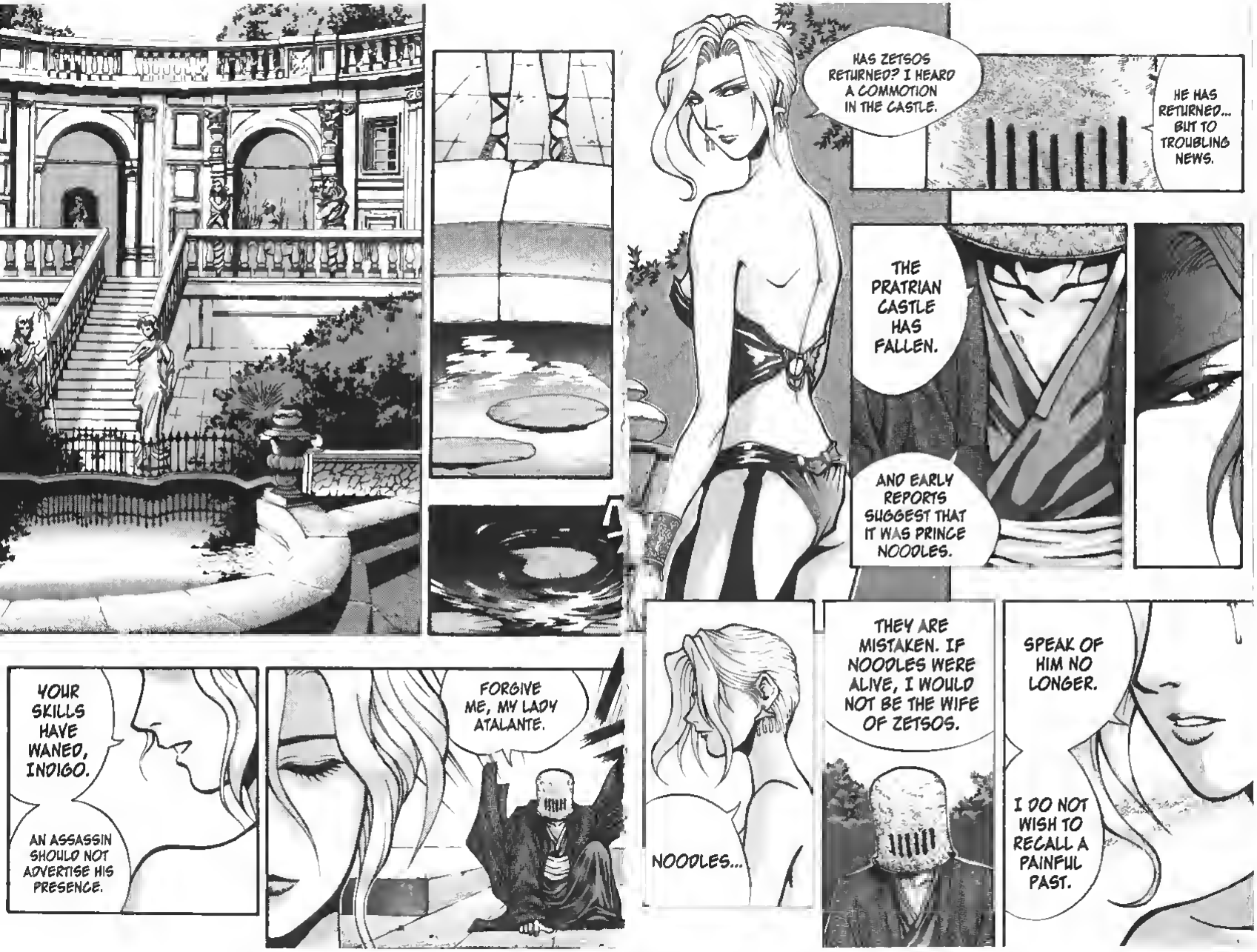
But just as King Hector died and Prince Noodles was to ascend the throne, Prince Zetsos, with an army he raised and allied with the Kingdom of Murserek, invaded Pratria and stole the crown.

Noodles' body was never recovered, but he was presumed dead. And Prince Zetsos continued his campaign of conquest to neighboring kingdoms, including the Kingdom of Gaiya.

In the fifteen years since, Noodles has formed an alliance with Princess Mayu Rakisad of Gaiya, committed to reclaiming their respective countries.

Now the war to reclaim Pratria begins.

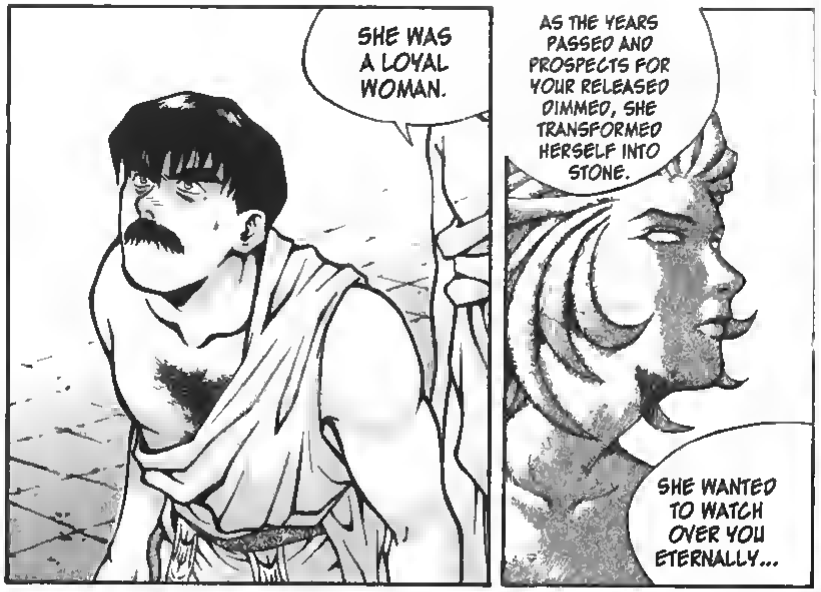
The only factor deciding victory or defeat is the ancient legend of the Neoptolemos, the Creators of War.

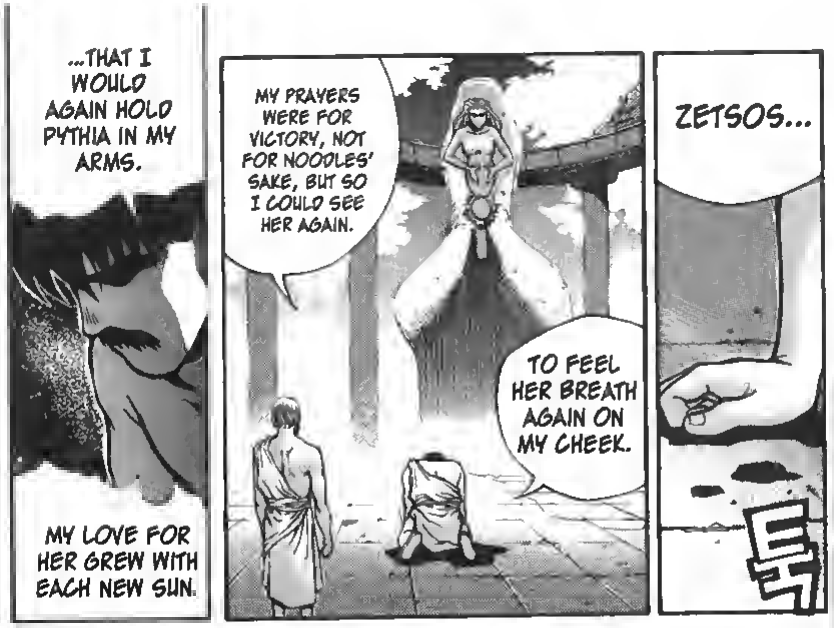

HAS ZETSOS RETURNED? I HEARD A COMMOTION IN THE CASTLE.
HE HAS RETURNED... BUT TO TROUBLING NEWS.
THE PRATRIAN CASTLE HAS FALLEN.
AND EARLY REPORTS SUGGEST THAT IT WAS PRINCE NOODLES.
NOODLES...
THEY ARE MISTAKEN. IF NOODLES WERE ALIVE, I WOULD NOT BE THE WIFE OF ZETSOS.
SPEAK OF HIM NO LONGER.
I DO NOT WISH TO RECALL A PAINFUL PAST.
FORGIVE ME, MY LADY ATALANTE.
YOUR SKILLS HAVE WANED, INDIGO.
AN ASSASSIN SHOULD NOT ADVERTISE HIS PRESENCE.

AHEM!
WELL, SATU DUG 'EM UP FOR ME.
DO THESE THREADS BRING OUT MY EYES? HA HA HA.
YOU SHOULD RETIE THE BELT.
Can he not give a compliment?
YES?
UH... BY THE WAY...
WHAT ABOUT HER?
UM... SO, NOODLES... YOU AND MAYI...
AH, SINAN.
AM I INTERRUPTING SOMETHING? YOU LOOK A BIT... MEDITATIVE.
NO, JUST THANKFUL. IT HAS BEEN FIFTEEN YEARS SINCE I'VE WALKED THESE GROUNDS.
IT HAS HARDLY CHANGED FROM HOW I REMEMBER IT.
WHERE DID YOU GET THOSE NEW CLOTHES?
UH...

WHAT'S YOUR RELATION-SHIP? ARE YOU, YOU KNOW, LIKE... TOGETHER?
...
WE ARE ALLIES. NOTHING MORE. DON'T WORRY.
COME HERE, SINAN! I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU!
OKAY, I-I'M COMING!
WELL, ARE YOU GOING?
...
WELL, I WASN'T WORRIED, I WAS JUST, YOU KNOW, CURIOUS--
I CAN TELL BY THE WAY YOU SAY HER NAME THAT YOU ARE MORE THAN...CURIOUS.
WELL, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT, I --
UM, NOODLES. LET'S JUST KEEP THIS BETWEEN US, OKAY?
HURRY UP!
WHAT IS BETWEEN US, I WONDER?
I'M COMING!
SINAN!
OH... MAYI.

YOU SURVIVED MUCH HARDSHIP, SIR TELAMON.
...
OVER HERE, MY LORD.
...
WE PRAYED FOR YOUR RELEASE.
WHERE IS PYTHIA?
WHERE IS MY WIFE?


SHE WAS A LOYAL WOMAN.
AS THE YEARS PASSED AND PROSPECTS FOR YOUR RELEASED DIMMED, SHE TRANSFORMED HERSELF INTO STONE.
SHE WANTED TO WATCH OVER YOU ETERNALLY...

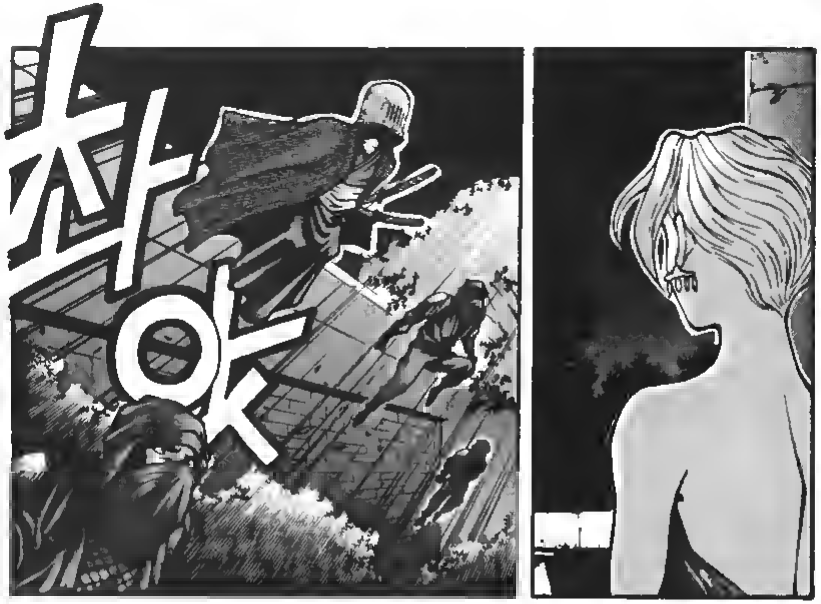

...THAT I WOULD AGAIN HOLD PYTHIA IN MY ARMS.
MY LOVE FOR HER GREW WITH EACH NEW SUN.
MY PRAYERS WERE FOR VICTORY, NOT FOR NOODLES' SAKE, BUT SO I COULD SEE HER AGAIN.
TO FEEL HER BREATH AGAIN ON MY CHEEK.
ZETSOS...

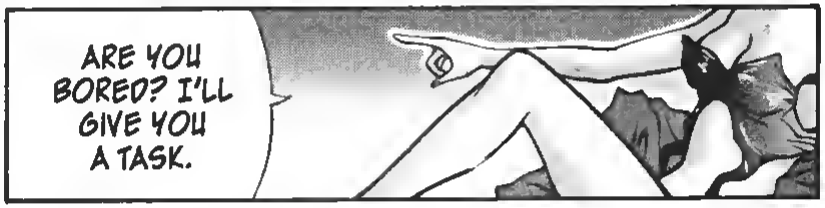
AND THUS BECAME YOUR GUARDIAN GODDESS, DIKE.
STOP!
SPEAK NO MORE OF THIS.
LOCKED AWAY FOR FIFTEEN YEARS, TORTURED AS I WAS...
I SURVIVED ALONE ON THE THOUGHT...

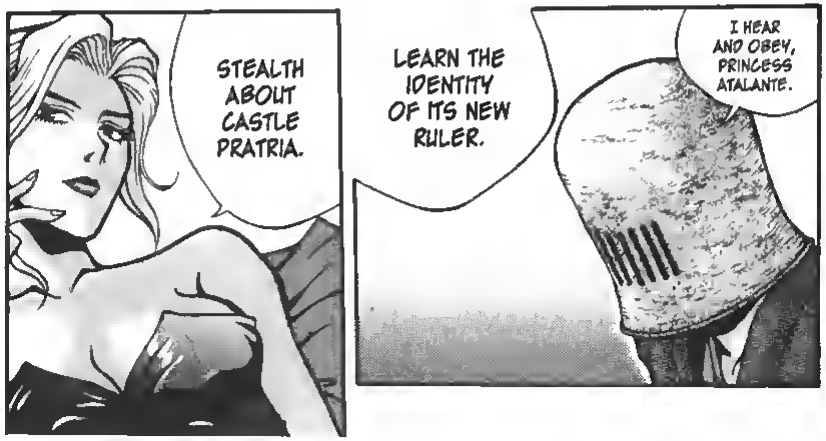
THIS NEW WAR WILL NOT SATE THE VENGEANCE OF PRINCE NOODLES ALONE.
I, TELAMON THEOPHILOS, WILL AVENGE THE FAIR AND BEAUTIFUL PYTHIA. IN THE NAME OF MY GUARDIAN, DIKE, THE GODDESS OF JUSTICE, THE FORM MY BELOVED HAS NOW TAKEN.

AH, SO YOU'VE RETURNED, MY DARLING ZETSOS. WAS THE HUNT AS ENJOYABLE AS YOU BOASTED IT WOULD BE?
ATALANTE, MUST YOU ALWAYS LASH WITH THAT SARCASTIC TONGUE?
IS THERE NOT A SMILE BENEATH THAT STONE COLD VISAGE? I HAVE BEEN AWAY FOR DAYS.
DO NOT SPEAK OF THAT CRIMINAL!
I AM THE RIGHTFUL KING OF PRATRIA! HE'S A MERE SYCOPHANT WHO CURRIED FAVOR WITH OUR FATHER!
DO NOT RAISE YOUR VOICE TO ME.
WHAT?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT I WAS THE LOVER OF ONE OF THE NEOPTOLEMOS?
HA HA HA HA HA!
I USE THESE RESPITES FROM YOUR PRESENCE TO REFLECT MORE DEEPLY ON THE MEMORY OF YOU KILLING MY FATHER AND SEIZING MY COUNTRY...
...NOT TO MENTION YOUR DENIAL OF MY RIGHTFUL PLACE AS QUEEN.
I KNOW YOU DON'T LOVE ME, YOU LOVE ONLY THE FACT THAT YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER WANTED ME, AND THAT YOU STOLE ME FROM HIM.
STOP!
YOU--
I'LL BE IN MY SLEEPING CHAMBERS. SEE THAT I AM NOT DISTURBED.
AS YOU WISH.
BY THE WAY, I HEAR RUMORS OF NOODLES RETAKING YOUR HOME COUNTRY. IS IT TRUE?

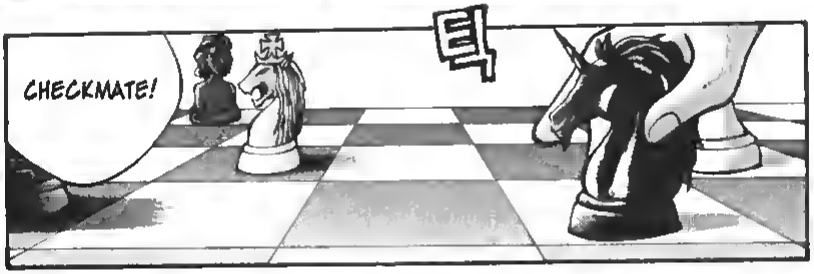
THAT WAS FUN.
INDIGO, I KNOW YOU'RE HIDING THERE.

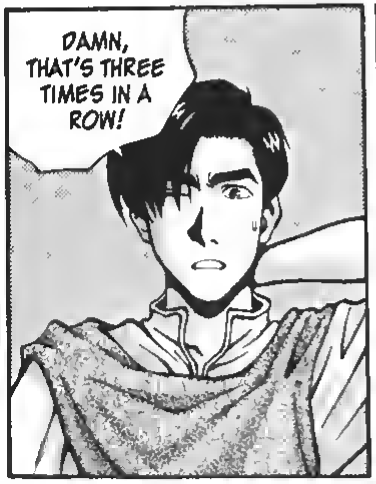

OK


ARE YOU BORED? I'LL GIVE YOU A TASK.


STEALTH ABOUT CASTLE PRATRIA.
LEARN THE IDENTITY OF ITS NEW RULER.
I HEAR AND OBEY, PRINCESS ATALANTE.

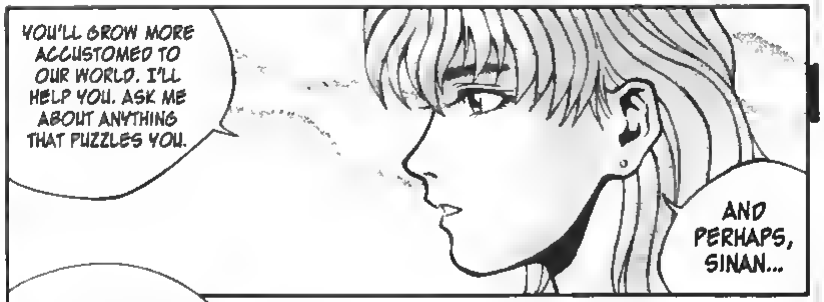
IF IT IS TRUE...IF NOODLES HAS RETURNED...
HOW WILL I BE ABLE TO FACE HIM?


CHECKMATE!


DAMN, THAT'S THREE TIMES IN A ROW!

YOU'VE ONLY JUST LEARNED THE GAME, SINAN. YOU'LL IMPROVE WITH PRACTICE.

I CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON ANYTHING NOW. I'VE BEEN HERE ONLY A FEW DAYS...
AND NOW I'M ALREADY A KNIGHT IN PRINCE NOODLES' ARMY.


YOU'LL GROW MORE ACCUSTOMED TO OUR WORLD. I'LL HELP YOU. ASK ME ABOUT ANYTHING THAT PUZZLES YOU.
AND PERHAPS, SINAN...

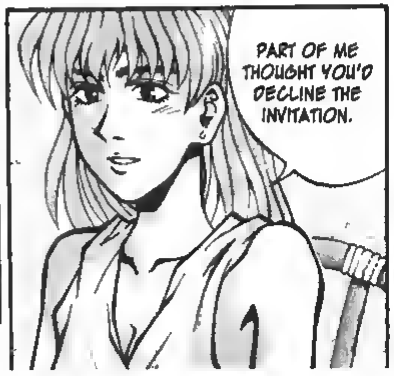
EVEN AFTER THIS WAR IS OVER AND I RETURN TO MY KINGDOM...
I COULD CONTINUE TO BE YOUR GUIDE.

UH, WELL...

PRATRIA IS AN EXCITING LAND. I'LL UNDERSTAND IF YOU DECIDE TO STAY.

NO. NO!
I WOULD LOVE TO VISIT GAIYA.

OH.


PART OF ME THOUGHT YOU'D DECLINE THE INVITATION.

어색...
...
...
NO, YOU HAVE...
SIR SINAN! PRINCE NOODLES SUMMONS YOU!
벌컥
YES...OF COURSE!!
IS THIS A... BAD TIME?
NOT AT ALL! LET'S GO!
...
AH..I SUSPECT THE KINDLING OF YOUNG LOVE. IF YOU REQUIRE SUCCOR IN THIS ENDEAVOR OF AMOR--
PLEASE, DON'T HELP!
JUST MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
탁

HUH?
MINTE! THE ENTRANCE IS IN THIS WALL.
SO THIS IS THE SECRET CHAMBER OF CASTLE PRATRIA, IS IT?
AND THE MAP TO THE NEOPTOLEMOS MUST BE THROUGH HERE?
DON'T BOTHER ANSWERING. IT IS FAR MORE EXCITING TO FIND OUT FOR MYSELF.
HOW DID YOU KNOW, PANTERA?
CALL IT A VAGUE MEMORY.
MEMORY?

THIS IS WHY THAT MORONIC KIN OF MURSEREK COULDN'T FIND IT.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

IF WE'RE TO WIN THIS WAR, WE NEED THE NEOPTOLEMOS. IT IS THEM WE SEEK.

AND, OF COURSE, ZETSOS KNEW, BUT WOULDN'T DARE SHARE THE SECRET OF THEM.

WHY DOES PANTERA KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THIS CASTLE?

WHO IS HE, REALLY?

AND WHO ARE THE NEOPTOL-EMOS?

RELICS FROM A PREVIOUS ERA. SOME CONSIDERED THEM A KIND OF MONSTER.

MONSTERS?
WE EMBARK ON OUR QUEST FOR IT TOMORROW!
HUH? TOMORROW?
AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN "US"? NO ONE ASKED ME TO TAG ALONG!
THE BODY WAS MOVED. THERE'S AN INTRUDER IN THE CASTLE.
IMPOSSIBLE! THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW ABOUT THIS CHAMBER ARE...
...ME, TELAMON AND ZETSOS... ONLY THE THREE OF US.
SINAN! GET US SOME WEAPONS!
AH... OKAY!
WHAT ENEMY DO WE FACE?
NO ONE HAD TO. YOU'RE A WARRIOR OF THIS CASTLE NOW.
MAN... I NEVER SAID I'D DO THIS.
WAIT!
BLOOD...

I'LL GO IN FIRST!
NO. THE BATTLE WILL COME TO US.
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WAIT FOR THE LITTLE RAT TO COME OUT.
A STATUE OF ORTHUS, THE FOUNDER OF PRATRIA.
THE SWORD HE HOLDS IS A PRATRIAN HEIRLOOM, STEROPE LIGHTNING!
ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE THE SWORD, TOO?
I'M NOT A THIEF, MINTE. I'M SATISFIED WITH MY CHAKRA.
WE'VE COME ONLY FOR...
...THE MAP OF THE NEOPTOLEMOS!

SO, ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE BOTH OF THEM?
I'M NOT GREEDY.
ONE WILL DO.
THIS ONE!
LUPINE STYX: "THE HATRED OF THE WOLF."
I THOUGHT THERE WERE SIX NEOPTOLEMOS WHY ARE THERE ONLY TWO MAPS?
BECAUSE ZETSOS COULD PROBABLY ONLY CARRY A FEW.
AND ONE IS MISSING ENTIRELY. THE MOST DANGEROUS OF THE NEOPTOLEMOS. NO ONE KNOWS WHERE IT IS.
WHO'S THAT?!
AH, SATU! PLEASED TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
PANTERA!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR EYE, LOYAL FRIEND?
AND WHAT OF THE HEAD OF PRINCESS MAY! THAT YOU PROMISED ME?
I'M NO LONGER A MERCENARY. I FOLLOW PRINCE NOODLES NOW.
SO, OUR DEAL IS UP?

UNHAND THE MAP AND I'LL LET YOU LEAVE IN ONE PIECE.
A CHALLENGE ...
AND YOU WITH A MERE DAGGER.
FACE ME, VILLAIN!
HA HA...
UNH!
NOW, STAY ABSOLUTELY STILL...
...UNLESS YOU WISH TO BE RELIEVED OF YOUR HEAD.
AGGH!
IS THE BLADE COLD?
YOUR BLOOD WILL WARM IT.
REALLY, SATU. FOR AS MUCH POSTURING AS YOU DO, YOU ARE AN INCREDIBLY AVERAGE WARRIOR.
AGGGH!

PANTERA, STOP FOOLING AROUND AND LET'S GO.
YOU'D LEAVE SO SOON?
BUT AS MUCH AS I HAVE ENJOYED YOUR HOSPITALITY, I MUST BE OFF. AND YOU SHOULD GET YOUR REST, LORD NOODLES.
AND WE'LL ALL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN QUITE SOON.
Uh...I...I don't know how to use a sword.
PRINCE NOODLES, I AM TOO ASHAMED TO FACE YOU.
AH, MY MANNERS. MY NAME IS PANTERA.
I HAVE YET TO MEET YOUR PAGE BOY, BUT YOU SHOULD CERTAINLY TAKE HIS SWORD AWAY BEFORE HE HURTS HIMSELF
HEY...!
RELEASE SATU, OR I WILL SPILL YOUR BLOOD.
AS IT STANDS, I MIGHT LET YOU LIVE.
PRINCE NOODLES. AND YOU MUST BE SIR TELAMON. I HAD HOPED OUR PATHS WOULD CROSS.
YOU'LL HAVE NOTHING FOR WHICH TO FEEL ASHAMED ONCE HE'S DEAD
I BID YOU ADIEU!
HALT!

PANTERA?!
YOU INSOLENT WHELP! YOU WON'T MAKE IT OUT OF HERE ALIVE!
HMPH. SUCH A SHORT TEMPER.
SWORDS... SWORDS WERE NEVER MY THING...
IF YOU NEED PRACTICE, I CAN OBLIGE.

HOLD THAT SWORD LIKE YOU MEAN IT, STRANGER!
UGH!
YOU ARE INDEED THE SON OF THE LION KING HECTOR!

WHY DOES THIS PANTERA SEEMS SO FAMILIAR?
OOH!
YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ME, HAVE YOU?
I'LL BE REAL GENTLE... SNAPPING YOUR NECK!
STOP BREATHING ON ME, OR ELSE...
YEOW!
EH
YOU HAVE TO FALL ON TOP OF ME?
AGGH!
DON'T PULL ANY PUNCHES JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE FIGHTING A WOMAN.
OUR ASSOCIATES SEEM TO BE THROUGH, WHY DON'T WE FINISH, AS WELL?
YOU THINK YOU CAN TREAT THIS LIKE A GAME?
YOU TELL ME, PRINCE NOODLES!

WHAT?!
MY SWORD!
AND THAT REMAINING MAP IS YOURS, TOO.
HA HA. IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO FINISH THIS DUEL, YOUR SWORD SEEMS TO HAVE GONE TO PIECES.
NEXT TIME, CHOOSE A STRONGER BLADE WITH WHICH TO FIGHT!
ARE YOU COMING, MINTE?

GUARDS!
NO NEED TO CALL THEM.
HIS SKILL, IT WASN'T NORMAL.
HE SAYS WE'LL MEET AGAIN. THAT SHOULD BE FUN.
I HOPE THERE AREN'T MANY MORE LIKE HIM OUT THERE!
IS THAT THE SAME CHILD...

Sniff sniff sniff
Sniff sniff sniff
Pantera? What happened! Have you been fighting?
Sniff sniff
...Mom. You're not a whore, right? And my dad is the king, right?
...!
The other children think I'm lying. They don't believe I'm a prince.
They threw rocks at me and called me the Pauper Prince.

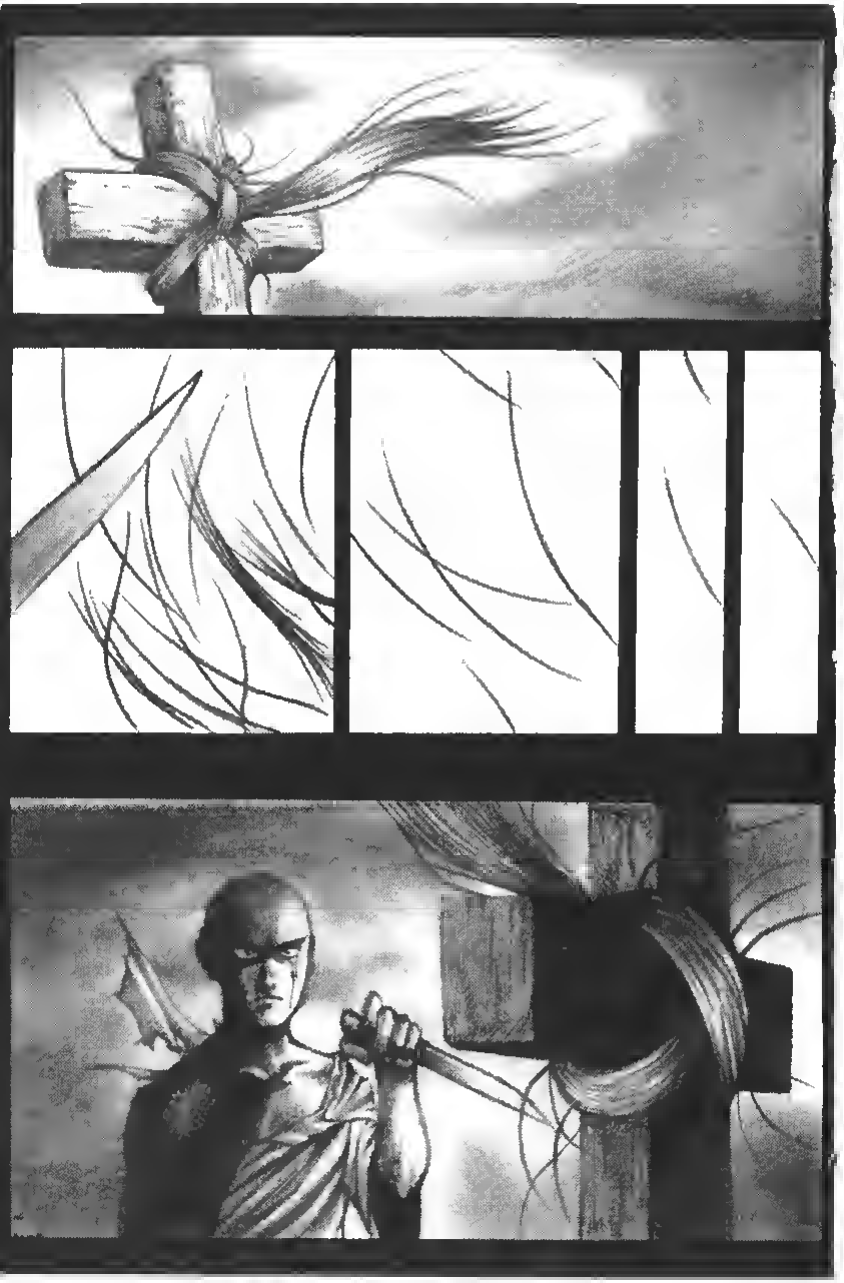
Pantera...
Your father is the king. Your father Hector is the king of Pratria.
If he's the king, then why don't we live in the castle?
You said he was coming to get us. Where is he?
Your father's a busy man. But he hasn't forgotten about us.
Your father still loves us.
I...
...I can't remember his face..
...
Let's go inside and get you cleaned up.

Mom?
Yes?
Why do I have to have long hair, like a girl?
Heh Heh...
Your father...
He liked my hair very much.
He said that I had the most beautiful hair of all the women in the world. He liked it when I would tickle his chest with my hair.
And he said that our child would have very beautiful hair, too.

Mom?
I'm going to wear my hair long, even if kids make fun of me.
And when he comes back, I'm going to tell dad to punish those who made fun of me.
Dad can fight like a master...
And he'll punish their fathers too, right, Mom?
...

MOM!
HNH!
HNH!

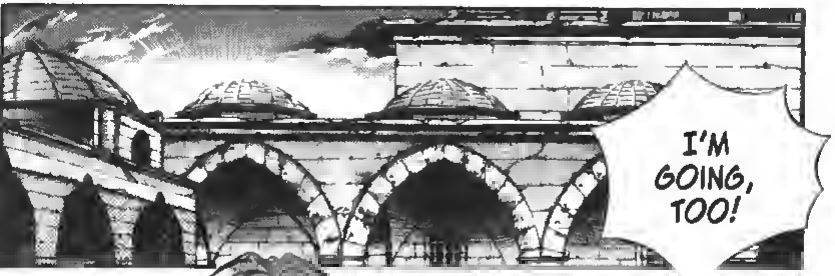
MOM?
DID YOU RECOVER THE CHILD'S BODY?
NOT YET. BUT HE DEFINITELY DIDN'T ESCAPE THE HOUSE.
YES...HE MUST BE DEAD.
I PRAY FOR THE CHILD...BUT IT HAD TO BE DONE.
IF LEFT ALIVE, THIS SON OF A CONCUBINE WOULD HAVE CHALLENGED THE THRONE.
KING HECTOR'S DYING WISH WAS THAT HIS SON NOODLES MUST TAKE THE THRONE...AND THAT ALL ILLEGITIMATE HEIRS...PANTERA AND MINTE...BE KILLED.
IT PAINED HIM...BUT THE ORDER HAD TO BE CALLED.
MOVE OUT.



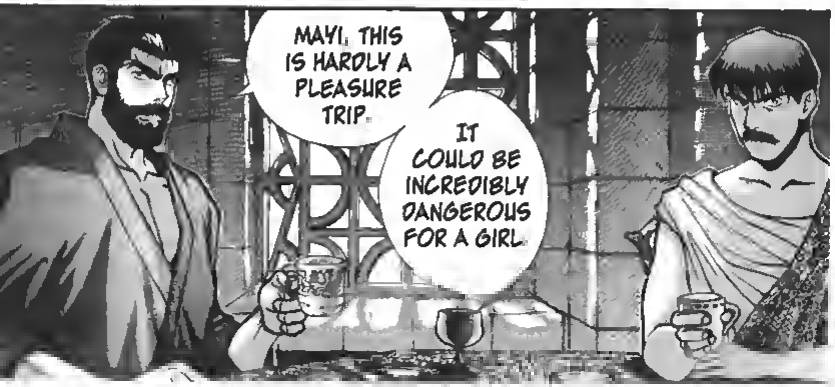
AND THE TIME OF REVENGE HAS COME!
WHAT?

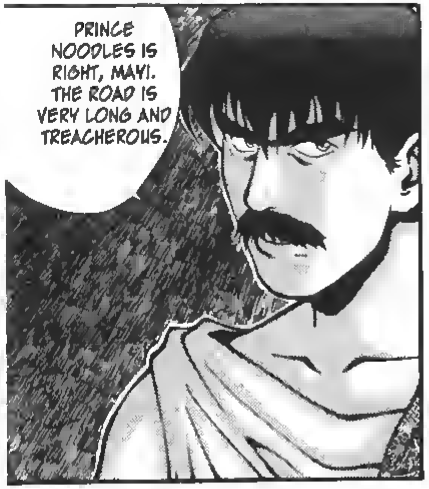
I'LL EXPLAIN IN TIME, FAIR MINTE.
BEFORE US IS THE FORBIDDEN CITY NEMESIS.
SOMEWHERE IN THESE RUINS LIES THE CREATOR OF WAR, STYX. HE'S ONE OF THE NEOPTOLEMOS.

MINTE!
YES?
LISTEN CARE-FULLY...
THIS ABANDONED CITY...
THIS WILL BE THE CAPITAL OF OUR FUTURE COUNTRY.


I'M GOING, TOO!

BUT, WHY?


MAYI, THIS IS HARDLY A PLEASURE TRIP.
IT COULD BE INCREDIBLY DANGEROUS FOR A GIRL.


PRINCE NOODLES IS RIGHT, MAYI. THE ROAD IS VERY LONG AND TREACHEROUS.

IT DOESN'T MATTER! I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING, SO FAR!
AND I REFUSE TO SIMPLY BE DEAD WEIGHT! I'M GOING TO HELP!

MAYI, THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR IDEALISTIC HEROISM. ASSASSINS ABOUND AND THE ROAD WE TAKE IS TOO ROUGH TO TAKE HORSES THROUGH.

OBVIOUSLY, THIS CASTLE ISN'T IMPREGNABLE.
첨첨

AND SINAN WILL BE MY GUARDIAN.
HKKK!

HEY! BLOW IN SOME OTHER DIRECTION!
KAFF!! KAFF!!
SORRY! OF... COURSE I'LL PROTECT MAYI...
OH, NO...
HUH? REALLY?
ER... YES. OF COURSE.
AH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY!
YAHOO! LET'S GO!
Mayi, please...
AM I JUST SOME PACK MULE? I'M SUPPOSED TO BE A KNIGHT!
HEH HEH. PAY YOUR DUES, NEWBIE.

HURRY UP, SINAN!
YEAH, I'M COMING!
MAYI SEEMS HAPPY.
SHE'S BEEN IN HIDING FOR SO LONG.
AH, THAT SINAN SURE PUTS A SMILE ON THE LASS'S FACE
WHAT?
IT'S TRUE, OLD FRIEND! HA HA HA!

AH, MAYI... ABOUT YESTERDAY ...
YES?
LOOK, I APOLOGIZE. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS DOING.
OH...
MY HEAD STILL HURTS A BIT... HEH HEH...
WELL, SATU STARTLED ME.
HA HA HA...
...
UM... S... SO...

I MEAN, I KNOW I'M NOT A REAL KNIGHT NOW.
BUT I'M GOING TO TRAIN, STUDY THE SWORD, LEARN MARTIAL ARTS...
AND WHEN I FINALLY REACH THE POINT AT WHICH I FEEL CONFIDENT I COULD PROTECT YOU...
--I WANT TO KISS YOU.
AN INEXPERIENCED LITTLE PRINCESS WITH US ON A PERILOUS JOURNEY.
DAMN IT, WHY DIDN'T YOU OBJECT WITH MORE FORCE? SHE'S GOING TO BE A HINDRANCE.
WELL...
IF SHE IS TO RETURN TO HER KINGDOM AS A RULER, BETTER SHE LEARN THE GRIM REALTIES OF BATTLE THAN REMAIN IGNORANT OF THEM.
YOU'RE RIGHT. HER INEXPERIENCE IS A HINDRANCE. LET HER NO LONGER LIVE INEXPERIENCED.
WHAT'S THAT NOISE...?
BOO!
YAH!
YOU SCARED ME, SATU!
HEH HEH, SORRY! YOU TWO LOOKED SO SERIOUS, I FELT I HAD TO LIVEN THINGS UP!
HE WON'T GIVE US A MINUTE ALONE.
EVEN IF WE SUCCEED, SHE WILL HAVE A MAMMOTH TASK AHEAD OF HER.
SHE MUST LEARN HOW TO TAKE CARE OF HERSELF.
YES... HER OWN COUNTRY...
I HOPE FOR HER SAKE SHE'S AN ONLY CHILD. SIBLINGS FIGHT ENOUGH WITHOUT A THRONE TO SQUABBLE OVER... LET ALONE A COUNTRY.

ONE COUNTRY IS ENOUGH FOR THIS CONTINENT.
HOW FORTUNATE TO ENCOUNTER THEM OUT HERE RATHER THAN IN THE BOWELS OF THE PRATRIAN CASTLE.

To be continued in Planet Blood Volume II

In the Next Volume...

The party is off in search of the six legendary Neoptolemos, and Indigo and his group of his assassins have been dispatched by Atalante to monitor their movements. However, Indigo may have other orders from higher up.

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